

Fruits Basket

TM

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3

Natsuki Takaya

Fruits Basket™

Volume 3



Natsuki Takaya

Fruits Basket™

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Fruits Basket Characters

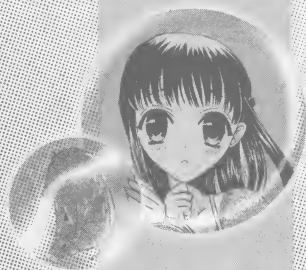
Shigure Sohma

The enigmatic Shigure keeps a house outside of the Sohma estate where he lives with Yuki, Kyo and Tohru. He may act perverted at times, but he has a good heart. His Zodiac spirit is the Dog.



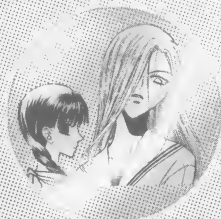
Kagura Sohma

Stubborn and jealous as her zodiac symbol, the boar, Kagura is determined to marry Kyo...even if she kills him in the process.



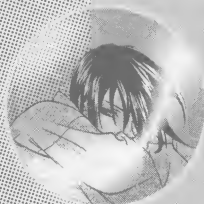
Hanajima & Arisa

The two best friends a girl could hope for. They always look out for Tohru, but they don't know about her new living arrangements...yet.



Akito Sohma

The mysterious leader of the Sohma clan, the other family members treat him with equal measures of fear and reverence. Tohru has never met him.



Momiji Sohma

Playful and carefree as the Rabbit he turns into, Momiji is the youngest member of the Sohma family that Tohru has met. He's half German and half Japanese, and switches casually between the two languages. His father owns the building where Tohru works.



Tohru Honda

The ever-optimistic hero of our story. Recently orphaned, Tohru has taken up residence in Shigure Sohma's house, along with Yuki and Kyo. She's the only person outside of the Sohma family who knows about their Zodiac curse.

Yuki Sohma

At school he's known as Prince Charming. Polite and soft-spoken, he's the polar opposite of Kyo. Yuki is possessed by the spirit of the Rat.



Kyo Sohma

Just as the Cat of legend (whose spirit possesses him) was left out of the Zodiac, Kyo is ostracized by the Sohma family. His greatest wish in life is to defeat Yuki in battle and win his rightful place in the Zodiac.

Hatori Sohma

The family doctor of the Sohma clan and one of the Juunichi (his symbol is the dragon, which manifests as a seahorse). When Akito wills it, he erases the memories of those who stumble upon the family's secret. Hatori once had to erase the memories of the woman he loved, and ever since has been firmly against letting anyone else know the secret—even Tohru.



STORY SO FAR...

Hello. I'm Tohru Honda, and I have come to know a terrible secret. After the death of my mother, I was living by myself in a tent when the Sohma family took me in. I soon learned that the Sohma family lives with a curse! Each family member is possessed by the vengeful spirit of an animal from the Chinese Zodiac. Whenever one of them becomes weak or is hugged by a member of the opposite sex, they change into their Zodiac animal!



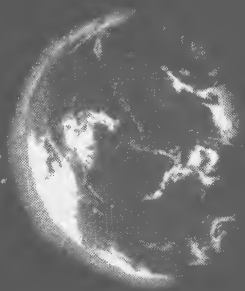


Chapter 13

Fruits Basket™

Omake Theater: The End of the World!

This story takes place in the chaos that is our Japan, as the end of the century draws near...



Japan is no exception.

A certain prophet predicted that the world would end in the year 1999.

The end of the century is near!

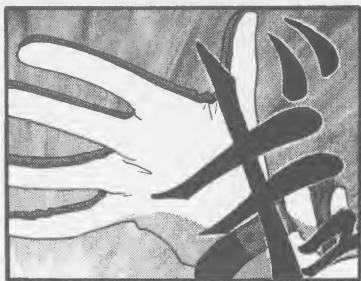


Pretty accurate ↑

ULTRA SPECIAL BLAH BLAH BLAH 1

You may notice Yuki and Kyo have matured a bit in this volume. They're also getting taller. (The tallest character in Furuba is Hatori, in case anyone is keeping track!)



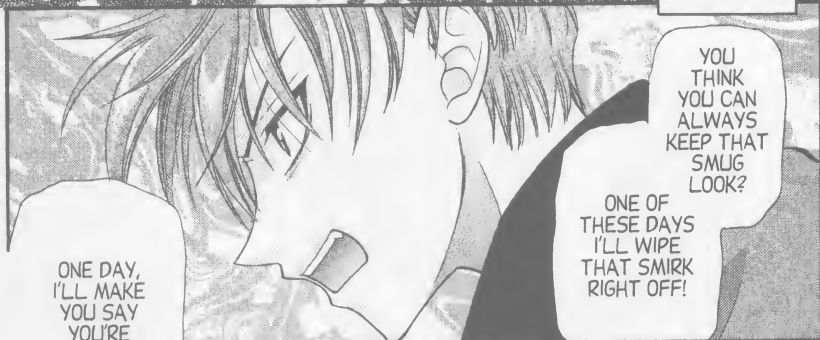


SO...

...WINTER
BREAK IS
OVER AND
THE THIRD
TERM HAS
STARTED.



I'M STILL
LIVING
HAPPILY
WITH THE
SOHMAS.



ONE DAY,
I'LL MAKE
YOU SAY
YOU'RE
SORRY...

YOU
THINK
YOU CAN
ALWAYS
KEEP THAT
SMUG
LOOK?

ONE OF
THESE DAYS
I'LL WIPE
THAT SMIRK
RIGHT OFF!

I'M
SORRY.



SUPER MARKET

YES, I'M
ASHAMED TO
BE SEEN WITH
YOU, SHOUTING
IN PUBLIC.

DAMMIT!
DON'T YOU
HAVE ANY
SHAME?!

That's
not
what I
meant
!!



FINE!
LET'S
TAKE IT
OUTSIDE!!

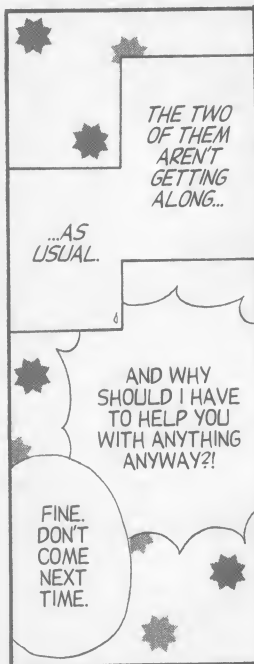
WE ARE
OUTSIDE,
STUPID
CAT.

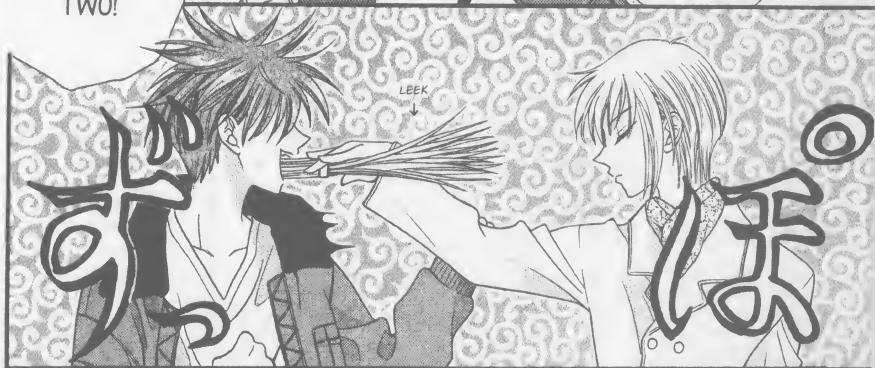
THANK
YOU FOR
WAITING!



UH...
UM...

NO,
HONDA-SAN.
THANK
YOU FOR
DOING THE
SHOPPING.







カラ
カラ

YUKI-
KUN, WHY
DON'T YOU
GO NEXT?

THE
BATH-
ROOM'S
FREE.



MM...

NOT
TODAY.



ONE DAY,
I'D LIKE TO
HANG HIM
FROM THE
ROOF...

Eeeh?!

YOU'RE NOT
TAKING A
BATH? HOW
TERRIBLY
GROSS!



.....

KYO-KUN!
SPIT IT
OUT OVER
HERE!

EEEW!

OOOOOOI...
(hey)



!

IT'S NOT
LIKE THAT.
I THINK I'M
GETTING A
COLD.

DO YOU
HAVE A
FEVER?!

Oh
?!

TH-THAT'S
TERRIBLE!



TAKE SOME
MEDICINE
AND GO TO
BED EARLY.

IT'S
IMPORTANT
TO NIP A
COLD IN
THE BUD
EARLY ON.


Now
where did
I put
that cold
medicine
...?

SHOULD HE
STAY HOME
FROM SCHOOL
TOMORROW?



YOU DO
FEEL A
LITTLE
WARM.

LET'S
SEE...



...
ENDURANCE
RUN?



B-BUT
TOMORROW
IS THE
ENDURANCE
RUN!

NO,
I'LL BE
FINE. IT'S
NOT THAT
FAR TO
WALK...

GASP!



IN THIS
WEATHER?

*This old-
timer is
impressed.*

THE THINGS
THEY DO
TO KIDS
TODAY...

DID YOU
SAY...

Box: Mystery Cold Medicine



ENDURANCE
RUN...
MARATHON
...

RUNNING
IN A
GROUP...

IN
OTHER
WORDS...



WE'RE
HAVING AN
ENDURANCE RUN
TOMORROW?!

OOOOOH,
KYO-KUN!
HOW CAN
YOU GO
SLEEVE-
LESS
IN THIS
WEATHER?!

EH...Y-YES!
DIDN'T YOU
KNOW, KYO-
KUN...?

*Why did you think
we were running so
much in P.E.?*

*cough
cough*



...A
BATTLE!



IT'S A
BATTLE!

DON'T
TRY TO
WEASEL
OUT OF
THIS, RAT!

IF HE TAKES
A BATH AND
GOES TO
BED EARLY,
IT'LL BE
GONE IN THE
MORNING.

KYO-KUN,
YOUR
EYES...THEY
CHANGED
COLOR?



UH...

TOMORROW
WE'LL
SEE WHO'S
FASTEST!!

R
i
g
h
t
o
n
!!

UH...
BUT...

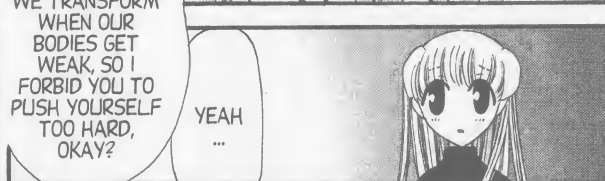
...SOHMA-
KUN IS
GETTING A
COLD!

Just
finished
his daily
training.

A GOLD?!
IT'S HIS OWN DAMN
FAULT FOR BEING
TOO WEAK TO FIGHT
IT OFF! THAT'S
WHAT HE GETS FOR
NOT KEEPING UP
WITH HIS TRAINING.

Fruits Basket 3
Part 1:

Hello! Nice to meet you! I'm Natsuki Takaya. Furuba Volume 3 already! (No, really-- didn't it happen fast?) The cover features Kyon-Kyon, just like I promised. If you're wondering why Kyo doesn't wear a necktie, it's because he can't breathe with anything around his neck. He doesn't even like clothes with tight collars. (That doesn't mean he'll never wear them. It just means he prefers not to wear them.) He's a cat who doesn't like collars. (Get it?)



SH

Girls ←

Boys ↑

IF YOU
NEED A
REMINDER,
THE
COURSES
ARE HERE
ON THE
BOARD.

IS EVERYONE
READY? MAKE
SURE YOU
FOLLOW THE
CORRECT
COURSE.

OH...
PLEASE LET
TOMORROW
PASS
WITHOUT
INCIDENT...

Each class has a different course.

THEY
REALLY
ARE
LOVELY.

YEAH
...

SO
LONG AND
SLENDER
...

YUKI-
KUN'S
LEGS...
♡

SOHMA-
KUN...?

YOU DIDN'T
EAT MUCH
BREAKFAST.
ARE YOU
FEELING
OKAY...?

I can't
even
tie my
shoes...

Slow-
motion!

What's
the
point
of
running?

SHE'S
PLAYING
HOOKY!

HANA-
CHAN IS
HERE,
THOUGH.

COME TO
THINK OF IT...
I HAVEN'T
SEEN UOTANI-
SAN AROUND.

HANA-
CHAN IS
HERE,
THOUGH.

ANYWAY

...IF I TRIED
TO STAY
HOME, HE'D
THROW A
FIT.

Hiss

See?

Oh
no you
don't!

Oh
no you
don't!

HONDA-SAN,
WHAT ARE YOU
DOING TALKING
TO YUKI-KUN
LIKE YOU'RE
FAST FRIENDS?!

IT'S TIME
FOR THE
GIRLS TO
START
RUNNING!!

H-
HONDA-
SAN...

NOW, LET'S
GO! GET A
MOVE ON!!



Guhaa!

SOME-
THING'S
HERE!!

IN THAT
CASE...

HIEEEH...
IT'S
NOTHING.

TOHRU-
KUN...? WHAT
HAPPENED
TO YOUR
HEAD?

REALLY?



OKAY!

I'M NOT
MUCH
OF A
RUNNER...

...BUT
I'LL
DO MY
BEST.



YES, I
KNOW...

TODAY
WE HAVE
TO RUN
FOR UO-
CHAN,
TOO!

What's
wrong?
Hang in
there!!

What
do you
mean by
them?

It's
THEM!
They're
here!!



GET
SET!

EVERYONE--
ON YOUR
MARKS!

Are you
okay?

As the
master
wishes...



I CAN'T
RUN ANY
FURTHER.

?!

HANA-
CHAN?!
WHAT'S
WRONG?!

I'M
SORRY,
TOHRU-
KUN...



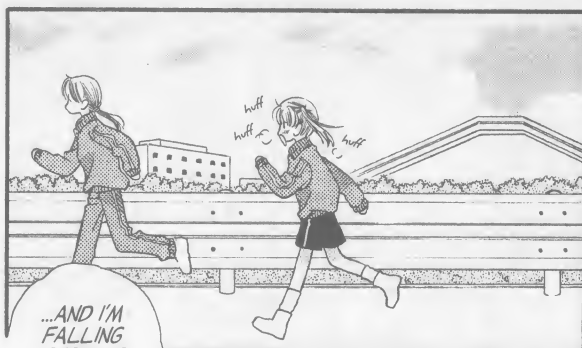
HANA-
CHAN....!!

YEAH, YEAH.
YOU CAN WALK
OR CRAWL FOR
ALL I CARE--JUST
GET STARTED,
HANAJIMA!

I HAVE NO
CHOICE BUT
TO WALK
THE REST OF
THE WAY.

PLEASE,
DON'T WORRY
ABOUT ME...
I'LL BE RIGHT
BEHIND YOU...

...WALKING.



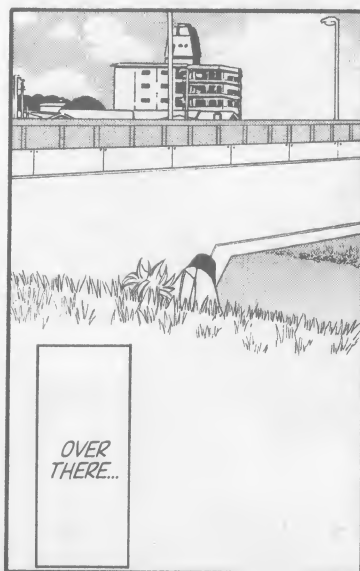
...AND I'M
FALLING
FURTHER
AND
FURTHER
BEHIND.

MUST
KEEP
GOING...!



She may
be slow, but she
paces herself.

THIS IS
A LONG
COURSE...



OVER
THERE...



IT'S ABOUT
TIME FOR
THE BOYS
TO START...

I HOPE
SOHMA-
KUN'S
OKAY...

And Hana-
chan too!

?!





I'M
GONNA
WIN!!

YOU'RE
GOING
DOWN,
YUKI!!

HUH...?

HEY
...

DO YOU
KNOW
WHERE
THE
SOHMA
FAMILY
LIVES?

SHUT
UP.

I THOUGHT
I TOLD
YOU TO
SHUT UP...

DON'T
HOLD
BACK!!

I'LL
KILL YOU
IF YOU'RE
LETTING ME
WIN!!







A-A-ARE
YOU OKAY,
KYO-KUN?!

EH...?
HONDA-
SAN?



EET!!

GOT
HIM.



HARU...?



WHAT
THE HELL
DID YOU
DO THAT
FOR?!

HYAH!

RIGHT
WHEN
I HAD
FINALLY
PASSED
YUKI-

I HAD NO
CHOICE. YOU
WOULDN'T
HAVE
STOPPED
ANY OTHER
WAY.



YOU
SHOULDN'T
HAVE TRIED
IT EITHER!!

DOING THIS IS
VERY DANGEROUS.
ANYONE OTHER THAN
KYO WOULD NOT GET
AWAY WITH JUST A
SCRAPE-- SO PLEASE,
DON'T TRY THAT
AT HOME...

AH...

WAIT A DAMN
MINUTE!! SHOW
A LITTLE
CONCERN! I'M
BLEEDING, HERE!

SHOULDN'T
YOU BE IN
SCHOOL?

*You have
entrance exams
this year.*

SO THIS
TIME
IT'S
HARU?

JUST SAY
IT. YOU GOT
LOST.

...AND FOUND
MYSELF IN AN
UNFAMILIAR TOWN.
NEXT THING I KNEW,
THREE DAYS HAD
PASSED.

A mystery...

I SET
OUT ON
SUNDAY...

THEY
JUST
KEEP
COMING...

*Now that you mention it,
where's his bicycle?*



YEAH...
YOU'RE
RIGHT.

UM...WE
SHOULD GET
OFF THE
COURSE.

What if sensei or
someone were to
find us?



That
means you
haven't
had a bath
in three
days.

SO YOU
STILL HAVE
NO SENSE OF
DIRECTION...

WHAT A
WONDERFUL
WAY OF
GETTING
LOST!



AH!
NO! THE
PLEASURE
IS MINE!

OH.
I SEE.

VERY
PLEASED
TO MEET
YOU.



HATSU-
HARU-
SAN...



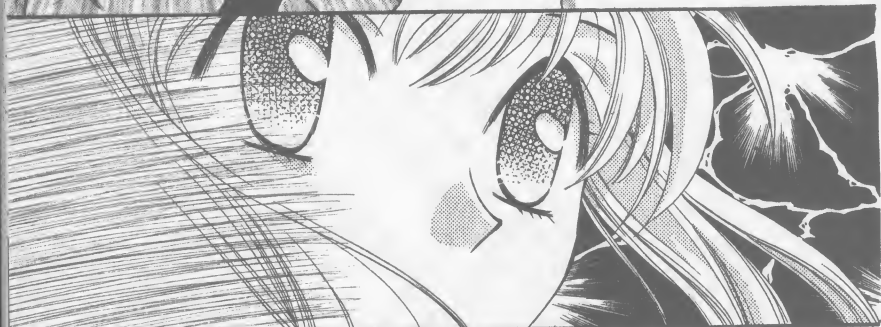
THIS IS
HATSU HARU
SOHMA. HE'S A
YEAR YOUNGER
THAN WE ARE.

He's a third-year in
middle school.

HARU.

THIS IS
TOHRU
HONDA-
SAN.





MUWA

HXA

TIME
TO DIE!!

NO,
DON'T
DIE!!

HXA!

YOU...

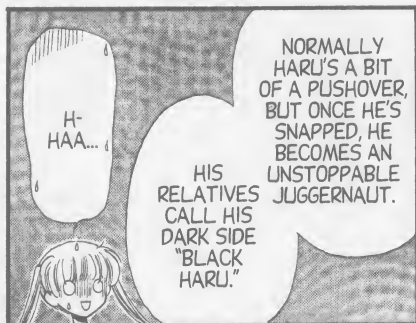
A REAL MAN
ANSWERS ANY
CHALLENGE.

BUT
THEN,
YOU'RE
JUST A
KITTEN.

DA
B AGH
R AGH
!!

"Damn
brat

Eep!!



H-HAA...

HIS
RELATIVES
CALL HIS
DARK SIDE
"BLACK
HARU."

NORMALLY
HARU'S A BIT
OF A PUSHOVER,
BUT ONCE HE'S
SNAPPED, HE
BECOMES AN
UNSTOPPABLE
JUGGERNAUT.



NO...

UM, DOES
THAT MEAN
HE'S THE
SAME TYPE
AS KAGURA-
SAN...?



GREAT.
HE'S
AWAKENED
"BLACK
HARU."

DAMMIT! WHAT'D
I EVER DO TO
YOU THAT YOU
HAVE TO GET IN
THE WAY OF MY
VICTORY?!

BUH--

BUH--
BUH--

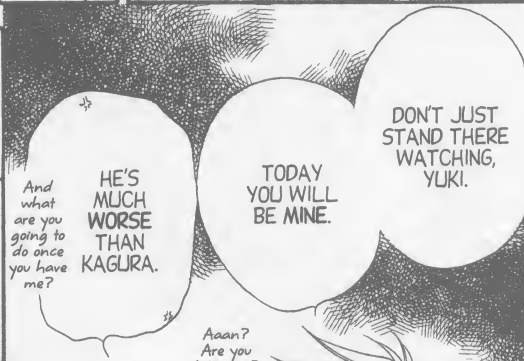


GET UP,
KYO!!

What do you
think you're
doing?!

I AM
UP!!

I'm
fighting.
Let's
fight.



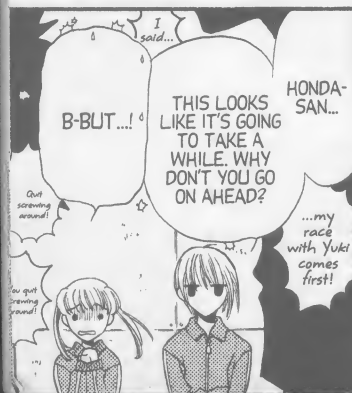
And
what
are you
going to
do once
you have
me?

HE'S
MUCH
WORSE
THAN
KAGURA.

TODAY
YOU WILL
BE MINE.

DON'T JUST
STAND THERE
WATCHING,
YUKI.

Aaan?
Are you
listening?



B-BUT ...!

THIS LOOKS
LIKE IT'S GOING
TO TAKE A
WHILE. WHY
DON'T YOU GO
ON AHEAD?

HONDA-
SAN...

...my
race
with Yuki
comes
first!





WHEN
DID YOU
BECOME
SUCH A
PANSY,
KYO?!

OH YEAH?
IF YOU KEEP
PUTTING ME OFF,
I'LL TAKE OUT MY
FRUSTRATIONS
ON YOUR LITTLE
GIRLFRIEND
OVER THERE...

YOUR BLACK
SIDE REALLY
SUCKS,
YOU KNOW
THAT?!

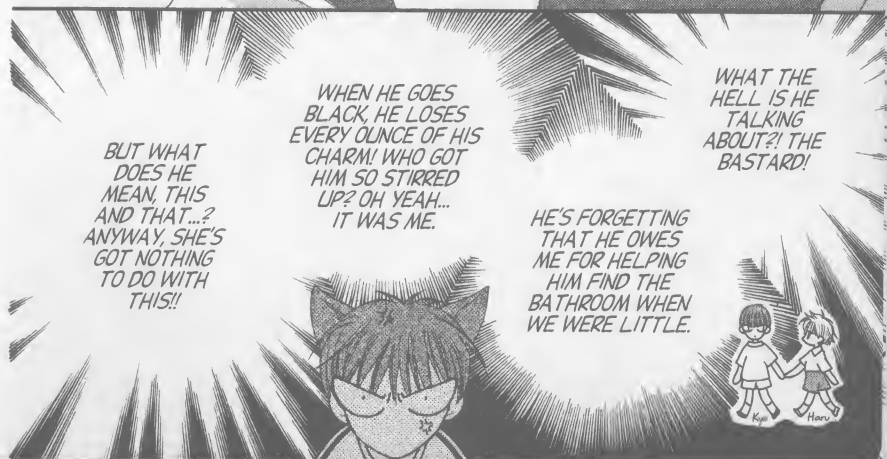


AND
THEN...

H
U
H
?!
YOU'LL
WHAT
?!

...SOME-
THING
ELSE,
TOO!

SOME OF
THIIIIIS, AND
SOME OF
THAAAT...



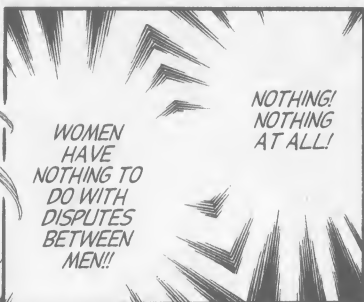
BUT WHAT
DOES HE
MEAN, THIS
AND THAT...?
ANYWAY, SHE'S
GOT NOTHING
TO DO WITH
THIS!!

WHEN HE GOES
BLACK, HE LOSES
EVERY OUNCE OF HIS
CHARM! WHO GOT
HIM SO STIRRED
UP? OH YEAH...
IT WAS ME.

WHAT THE
HELL IS HE
TALKING
ABOUT?! THE
BASTARD!

HE'S FORGETTING
THAT HE OWES
ME FOR HELPING
HIM FIND THE
BATHROOM WHEN
WE WERE LITTLE.



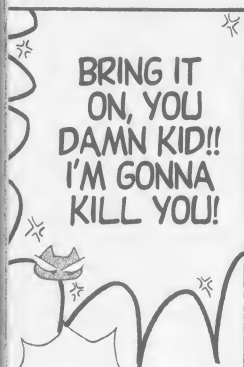


WOMEN
HAVE
NOTHING TO
DO WITH
DISPUTES
BETWEEN
MEN!!

NOTHING!
NOTHING
AT ALL!



NOTHING!
BUT...



BRING IT
ON, YOU
DAMN KID!!
I'M GONNA
KILL YOU!

KYO-
KUN?!

Of course,
they didn't
hear Haru's
threat.



I knew
it would
come to
this...



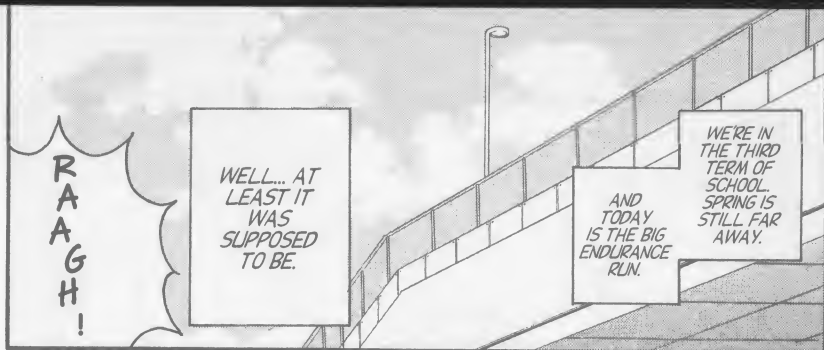
...FOR
SOME
REASON.

...IT
REALLY
PISSES
ME OFF!





Chapter 14



ULTRA SPECIAL BLAH BLAH BLAH 2

There were a lot of typos in this issue first time around...I got a lot of letters saying, "This line of dialogue is weird!" Of course it's weird--it's a typo! Oh well. We're human, we make mistakes. Let's be more tolerant. As it happens, I'm really bad at catching typos. (But I think I caught them all this time!)

**These words come from Takaya-sensei, but they apply to the editor as well!*



HYAAAH!!

FOR
SOME
REASON...

...IT'S
TURNED
INTO A
MARTIAL
ARTS
BATTLE.

cough
cough

ABSOLUTE
ZERO SMILE



O-OH...

...THERE'S NO
WAY I'M GETTING
IN THE MIDDLE
OF THAT.

I'd rather die.



UH...UH...
UM...

LEAVE
THEM
ALONE,
HONDA-
SAN.

JUST LET
THEM FIGHT
IT OUT.

BESIDES...



BUT
ONCE HE
SNAPPED
...

STILL...

...THE
HATSU-
HARU-
SAN THAT
I MET
EARLIER
...

WAS THAT
SUPPOSED
TO BE A
PUNCH?!!

I BARELY
FELT IT!!

...SEEMED
LIKE
SUCH A
SWEET
PERSON.



THE
SOHMA
FAMILY
IS...

HE
BECAME A
COMPLETELY
DIFFERENT
PERSON.

I'll kill
you!!

ハル

...SO
FULL OF
DIFFICULT
PEOPLE.



STOP
FLATTERING
YOURSELF!
YOU'RE A
SNAPPING
TURTLE
COMPARED
TO YUKI!



Taunting

ど
Dangle

ど
Dangle

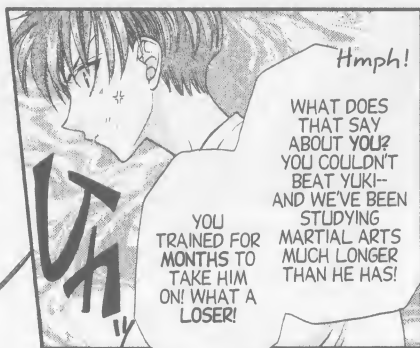
HIT ME
SOME
MORE,
YOU
DUMB
CAT!

MORON!
SISSY!

.....
!
*Dropping his guard



NOW I'M
REALLY
GONNA
KILL YOU!!



Hmph!

WHAT DOES
THAT SAY
ABOUT YOU?
YOU COULDN'T
BEAT YUKI-
AND WE'VE BEEN
STUDYING
MARTIAL ARTS
MUCH LONGER
THAN HE HAS!

YOU
TRAINED FOR
MONTHS TO
TAKE HIM
ON! WHAT A
LOSER!



YOU'RE
LESS
THAN A
SNAPPING
TURTLE!

YOU'RE A
WIDDLE
BABY
TURTLE!



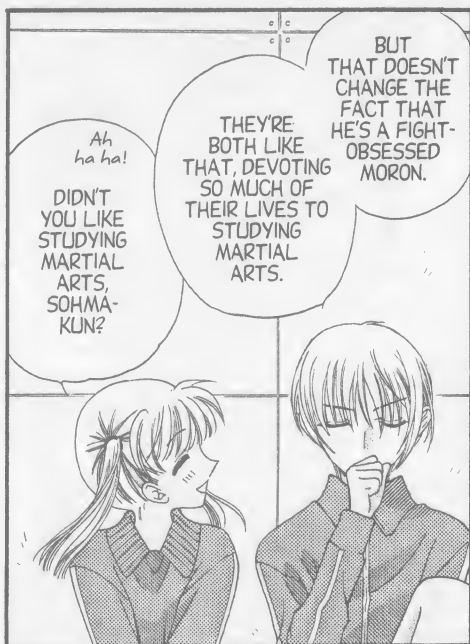
A WATER
SKEETER!



THIS
IS SO
STUPID.

I'LL
KILL
YOU!

I'LL
KILL
YOU!



Ah
ha ha!

DIDN'T
YOU LIKE
STUDYING
MARTIAL
ARTS,
SOHMA-
KUN?

THEY'RE
BOTH LIKE
THAT, DEVOTING
SO MUCH OF
THEIR LIVES TO
STUDYING
MARTIAL
ARTS.

BUT
THAT DOESN'T
CHANGE THE
FACT THAT
HE'S A FIGHT-
OBSESSED
MORON.



AH...
SOMEHOW
IT SEEMS...

...KYO-
KUN IS
SO MUCH
STRONGER.

WELL...
YES. KYO
PROBABLY
IS STRONGER
AGAINST
HARU.



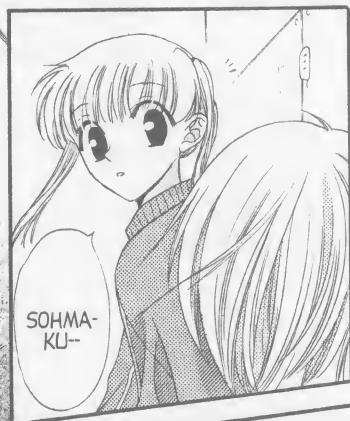
I DON'T
KNOW.

.....

DID I...?



SOHMA...
KUN?!



SOHMA-
KU--



WHAT'S
WR--



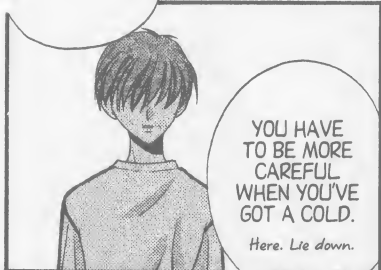
SOHMA-
KUN?!

SOHMA-
KUN!!



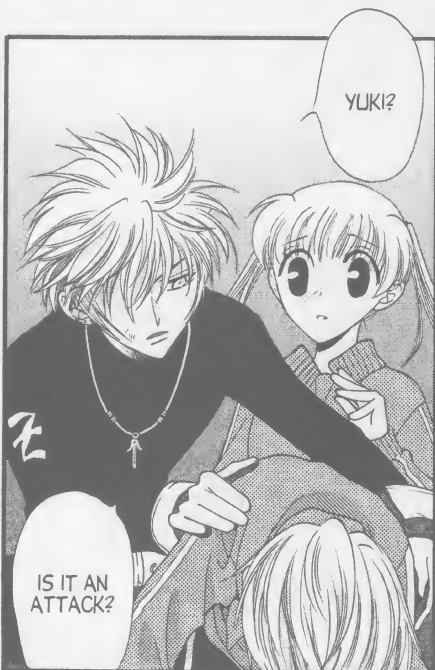
HE'S
GOT A
FEVER.

HIS
BRONCHIAL
TUBES...!



YOU HAVE
TO BE MORE
CAREFUL
WHEN YOU'VE
GOT A COLD.

Here. Lie down.



YUKI?

IS IT AN
ATTACK?



I'LL CALL
THE MAIN
HOUSE...

ガッ

Fruits Basket 3 Part 2:

I got to meet
my idol, Banri! [┐]
Hidaka-sensei! Isn't
that great? Aren't
you jealous?!
Eh heh heeehh...[┐]

(Someday someone's
gonna smack you.)
There was a thing,
and we were both
invited, and I met
her there. (I met
other authors there,
too, but I didn't get
permission to write
about them, so I
can't tell you who
they were.) Well,
anyway-- I haven't
met many other
Hana-Yume authors,
so it was very
exciting! Maybe I
haven't met them
because I don't
go anywhere...like
New Year's parties...
(This year I had the
flu and thought it
would be bad to go
to a party and give
it to everyone else.)
Hidaka-sensei was
very much like the
manga she writes.

To be continued...

*Hidaka-sensei is the
manga ka of SEKAI DE
ICHIHAN DAIKIRAI.





* Haru and some other Sohma members refer to Shigure as Sensei. Sensei can be applied to a master of a craft, like a novelist, or manga-ka, as well as an actual teacher.



AS LONG
AS I HAVE
TO HUG
SOMEONE...

...SHE MIGHT
AS WELL
BE CUTE.

!!

NOW...

WE CAN
CARRY
YUKI LIKE
THIS.



He
Just...

H...

HO
HO
HO
HO

H-HE!

First Momiji, now this...

HOLD MY
NECK SO
I DON'T
CHANGE
BACK.

HE
HAS NO
SHAME...!

He's a
disgrace to
martial arts.





...
TRUTHFULLY
SAY...

AT
LONG
LAST
I CAN...

IT'S
FINALLY
HERE.

IT'S
HERE.



...Royal
straight
flush.

GAAHH!
YOU'RE
KIDDING!

HOW
COME YOU
ALWAYS
GET THE
GOOD
CARDS?

IF YOU'RE
NOT GOING TO
RUN, THEN GO
HOME!!

Sensei →



IT'S NOT
FUNNY...!

WHAT
A NOBLE
STEED--
I MEAN STEER!
HEE HEE!

SO THAT
EXPLAINS
IT...

Hee
Hee
Hee!





SCHOOL IS
IMPORTANT,
BUT...

...I DON'T
WANT TO GO
IF IT MEANS
ABANDONING
A PERSON IN
NEED.

I'M SURE
MOM WOULD
HAVE SAID
THE SAME
THING.



A-AND
COLDS ARE
DANGEROUS...
WE SHOULDN'T
UNDERESTIMATE
THEM...



W
h
a
a
?!

OH, IT'S
FINE. DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT IT.

KYO-KUN,
CALL
HAA-SAN.

WHY
SHOULD I...?

HAA-SAN
IS REALLY
STRESSED
OUT, SO BE
CAREFUL.

It seems
there's an
epidemic of
influenza in
the family.

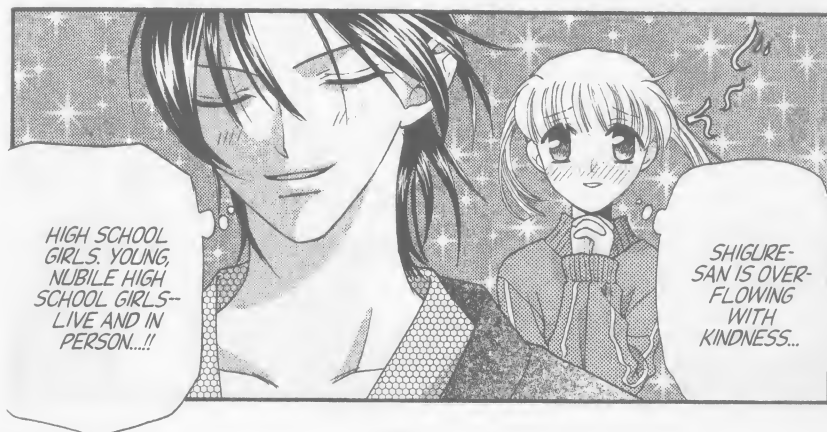
SO
WHAT?



WELL THEN...
SHOULD I GO TO
THE SCHOOL
AND GET YOUR
STUFF?

H
u
h
?!

N-NO!
PLEASE,
DON'T GO
TO ANY
TROUBLE!





WHAT
DID HATORI
SAY?

WELL? NOW
WHAT?
IT LOOKS
LIKE THAT
DAMN YUKI'S
GONNA PULL
THROUGH.

SHOULD
WE GO ON
WITH OUR
FIGHT?



YEAH...
OKAY.

THANKS.



WELL,
YOU DID
DISAPPEAR
FOR THREE
DAYS...

HE'S MAD
AT ME
FOR SOME
REASON.



Hold
it, kid!

YOU CAN'T
LEAD PEOPLE
ON LIKE THAT
AND THEN
WALK AWAY!!

I'LL HAVE
TO TRAIN
HARDER.

YOU'RE
A TOUGH
OPPONENT,
KYO.

NAH,
THAT
WAS
ENOUGH.



AH...



SOMEHOW,
YOU'RE A
COMPLETELY
DIFFERENT
PERSON...

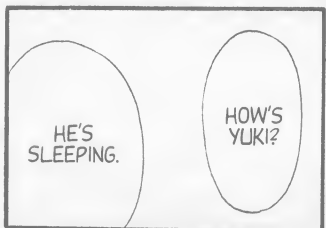
YEAH...

THAT'S
RIGHT.



YOU CHANGED
BACK TO
WHITE HARU
WHEN NO ONE
WAS LOOKING!!

OW
OW
OW!



HE'S
SLEEPING.

HOW'S
YUKI?

HUH?!
YOU'RE NOT
BLACK-SAN
ANYMORE?!



But he
did try it
once.

I'LL
BEAT HIM
FAIR AND
SQUARE!!

AH...

Bah!

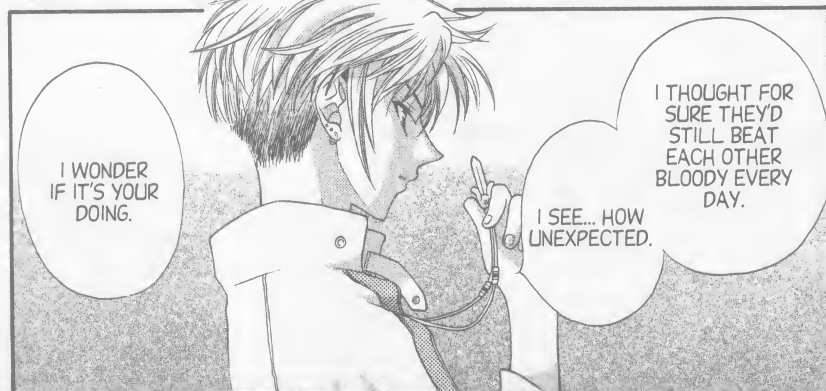
THIS
SUCKS. I'M
GOING BACK
TO SCHOOL!!



BETTER NOT
ATTACK HIM
WHILE HE'S
SLEEPING,
KYO...

OF
COURSE
I WON'T,
IDIOT!

WHY WOULD
I TRY AND PULL
A CHEAP TRICK
LIKE THAT?





OH!

OH, NO!
I'M NOT THAT
SIGNIFICANT!
AM I?!

I HAVEN'T
BEEN
WATCHING
THE WHOLE
TIME, SO I
CAN'T SAY
FOR SURE...

...BUT FOR NOW,
THEY SEEM TO
BE CHANGING
IN THE RIGHT
DIRECTION,
AND THAT'S A
GOOD THING.

ESPECIALLY
FOR YUKI.



...BECAUSE
YOU'RE
HERE WITH
THEM.



I LIKE
KYO
TOO.

...BUT YUKI
IS SPECIAL
TO ME.

He says
it so
calmly...

She
dropped the
icepack.

HAA
...



HE WAS MY
FIRST LOVE,
YOU KNOW...
YUKI.



YOU KNOW
THE LEGEND,
RIGHT? IT
SAYS, "THE
RAT RODE THE
OX'S BACK TO
GET TO THE
BANQUET..."

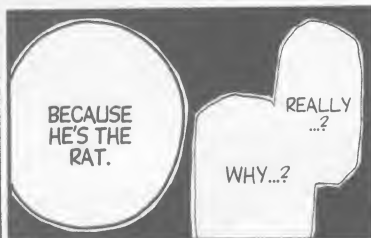
OH...

BECAUSE
OF THAT, I
UNCONSCIOUSLY
SAW HIM AS
AN ENEMY.

WHEN
I WAS
LITTLE...



IT WASN'T
ALWAYS THAT
WAY. WHEN
WE WERE KIDS,
I ABSOLUTELY
HATED HIM.



BECAUSE
HE'S THE
RAT.

REALLY
...?

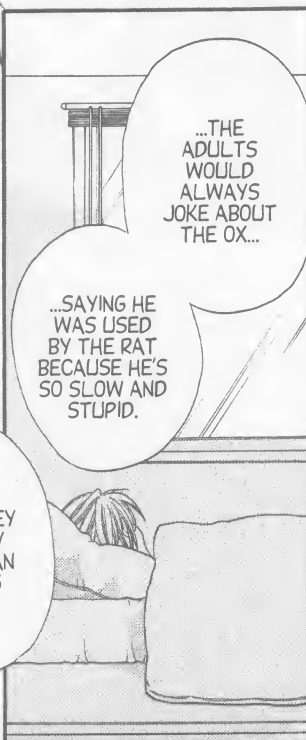
WHY...?



...BUT
STILL...

...I FELT LIKE
THEY WERE
LAUGHING AT
ME, SAYING
I WAS SLOW
AND STUPID.

I KNOW THEY
PROBABLY
DIDN'T MEAN
ANYTHING
BY IT...



...THE
ADULTS
WOULD
ALWAYS
JOKE ABOUT
THE OX...

...SAYING HE
WAS USED
BY THE RAT
BECAUSE HE'S
SO SLOW AND
STUPID.



THAT
WAS WHEN
MY BLACK
PERSONALITY
WAS BORN.

I GOT ANGRY
AT THE RAT
FOR TAKING
ADVANTAGE
OF THE OX.

MY PARENTS
COULDN'T
HANDLE ME, SO
THEY ENROLLED
ME IN MARTIAL
ARTS SO I
COULD VENT
MY ANGER.

I WAS
ALWAYS
IRRITABLE
AND SHORT-
TEMPERED.

...BUT IT
DIDN'T STOP
PEOPLE
FROM
LAUGHING
AT ME.

I REALLY
ENJOYED
TAKING
MARTIAL
ARTS...

You really
suck!!

Heh!!

BUT IT
DIDN'T
WORK.

WE WENT TO
DIFFERENT
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOLS, SO
WE ONLY
SAW EACH
OTHER AT NEW
YEARS.

I HAD
ACTUALLY
NEVER
SPOKEN TO
HIM BEFORE
THAT.

IT WAS
DURING
THAT
TIME...
...THAT I
CONFRONTED
YUKI.



I HATE YOU!!

I SNAPPED,
AND ALL
THAT BUILT-
UP ANGER
CAME OUT AT
ONCE.

...TRUE?

"STÜPID"
?

ARE
YOU...

...LIKE
THAT?

IT'S
THE DIRTY
SCHEMING
RAT'S FAULT!
IT'S ALL YOUR
FAULT!!

IT'S YOUR
FAULT THAT
EVERYONE
LAUGHS
AT ME!!

YOU'RE THE
REASON I'M
SLOW! THE
REASON I'M
STUPID!!

ARE
YOU
REALLY
...



DON'T JUDGE
ME BASED ON
SOME STORY...

I'M NOT
STUPID...

...AND LAUGH.

YEAH.

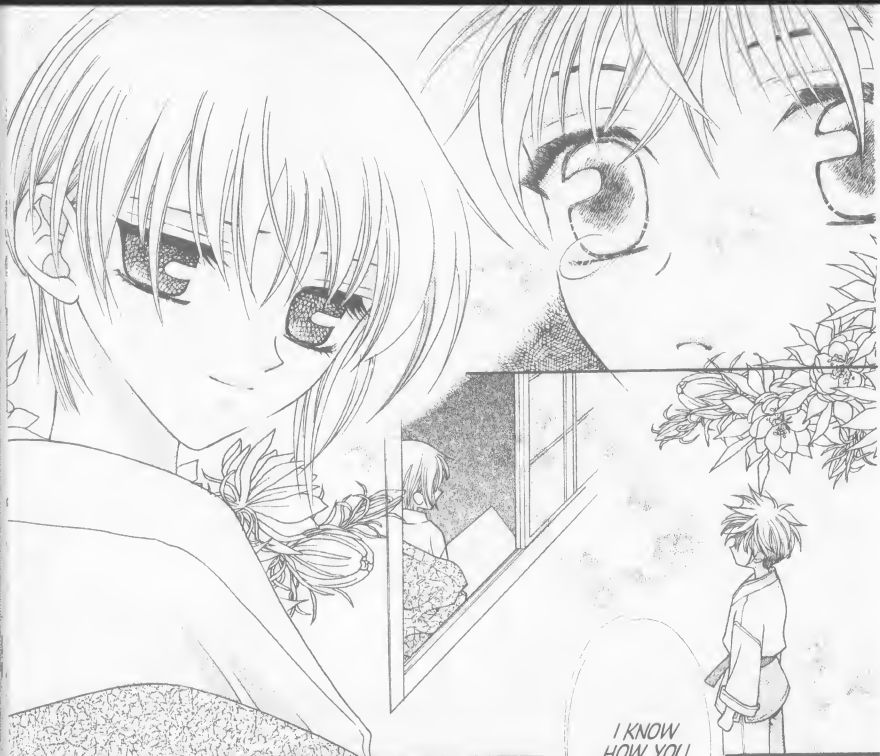
DON'T JUDGE...

NO...

NO,
I...

...I'M...

...NOT
STUPID...



AFTER
THAT...

...I DIDN'T
SNAP AS
OFTEN.

I KNOW
HOW YOU
FEEL...

I WAS
SURPRISED.

HE WAS
COMPLETELY
DIFFERENT
FROM THE
YUKI I HAD
IMAGINED.

HE
FREED
ME.

YUKI
LET ME
SAY WHAT
WAS IN MY
HEART.



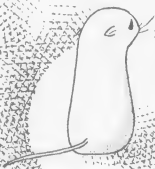
IF I
HADN'T,
I WOULD
STILL HATE
HIM.

AND THAT
WOULD
REALLY BE
STUPID.

I'M
GRATEFUL
I MET YUKI
THAT DAY.

I WAS
JUST AS
GUILTY
AS THE
PEOPLE I
WAS MAD
AT.

I HAD PRE-
JUDGED YUKI.
I ASSUMED
HE WAS THE
"SCHEMING
RAT."



*Come to
think of it...*

WHEN YUKI
WAS STANDING
NEXT TO
YOU, HE HAD
THIS SERENE
SMILE.

I WAS
SURPRISED
TODAY
TOO.

THAT
WAS A
WONDERFUL
STORY!



HE NEVER
SMILED LIKE
THAT WHEN
HE WAS AT
THE MAIN
HOUSE.





THAT'S
WHY...

...I WAS
WONDERING
IF IT WAS
YOU...

...WHO
SOFTENED
YUKI'S
HEART.



Mm

OOOH...



HUH?

whisper
whisper



YOU'RE
AWAKE...?

HUH...?
HONDA-
SAN...

...

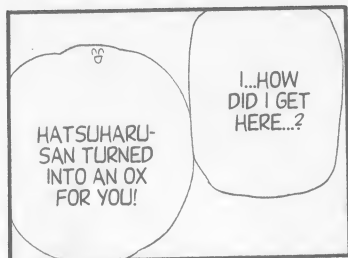


AH...!

N-NO!
THAT IS,
BECAUSE...
UM...

I COULDN'T
HAVE DONE
ANYTHING
LIKE THAT...

OH,
REALLY...?
WANT TO
TEST IT
AND SEE?





YUKI...
KUN.

Um... IT REALLY
WAS A
WONDERFUL
STORY.

IT'S
ALRIGHT.
DON'T PAY
ATTENTION
TO HAR--

...



"YOU
SHOULD
CALL
HIM BY
HIS FIRST
NAME."

...

IT
REALLY
CAN'T BE
ME...

HATSU-
HARU-
SAN...



"I'M SURE
HE'D BE
HAPPY."

AND
THAT...

...IS HOW
THE STORMY
ENDURANCE
RUN CAME
SAFELY TO
AN END.



WELL... MORE
OR LESS.
THAT NIGHT,
EVERYONE
WAS SICK
WITH COLDS.

I ONLY TAKE
FAMILY AS
PATIENTS,
AND I STILL
GET WORKED
TO DEATH...

WHAT DID
THEY EXPECT,
PLAYING OLD
MAID OUTSIDE
IN SUCH COLD
WEATHER...?

*Of course they'd
catch colds!*



Chapter 15



ULTRA SPECIAL BLAH BLAH BLAH 3

This is a little off topic, but it's about Hatsuharu. His personality is split into Black and White. The White side represents his true self, but he retains all of his memories when he's Black too.

(Of course, he probably doesn't think much besides,
"Aahh... I've gone Black again!")

Fruits Basket 3 Part 3

The mood of manga--I know that's a very sensuous way of phrasing it--but every author has his or her own style that evokes a certain mood. Definitely. Well, what is mine like...? (Ha ha!) Anyway, a while back, Hana-Yume magazine allowed me to interview Hidaka-sensei, and I remember that she said, "I'm told I look like Sachiko-chan." * I thought, "Oohh, come to think of it, she kinda does!" (Of course I didn't say anything out loud--I just thought it.) Oh, but it was such an honor to meet her! Please accept my insane faxes (Hee hee!), Hidaka-san! And please treat Natsuki Takaya kindly...

* Sachiko is the protagonist of Hidaka Banri's SEKAI DE ICHIBAN DAIKIRAI.





Hey,
just fall
already.

...THE YUKI
FAN THROWS
OUT THE
CHOCOLATE
THAT WAS
THERE
BEFORE...

JUST
AS THE
CUCKOO
CHICK
KICKS THE
SHRIKE'S
EGG OUT
OF THE
NEST...

...SO
THAT HER
CHOCOLATE
WILL
STAND OUT.

Out of the
way, loser
chocolate!



THEY'VE
BEEN
THROWN
AWAY!

Ahhh!
See?
It's full!

THE
PROOF IS
IN THAT
WASTE-
BASKET.

GIRLS
CAN BE SO
CRUEL.



I THINK
I UNDER-
STAND.

THIS
MUST BE
LIKE...

...WHAT
HAPPENS
WITH A
CUCKOO'S
CHICK.



TODAY IS
FEBRUARY
13TH.

EAT IT,
EAT IT, WHY
DON'T YOU?

But

...um,
that's
yuk-
koo's...

I
don't
mind...

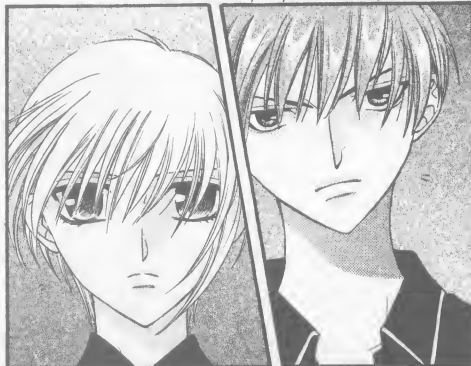
AND I AM THE
HAWK WHO
TARGETS THE
REMAINING
CHOCOLATE.



HEY.

YO.

This doesn't mean they always come to school together.



VALENTINE'S
DAY IS ON A
SUNDAY...

...SO
PEOPLE AT
SCHOOL ARE
CELEBRATING
IT TODAY.

AH.



Ky-
KYO-
KUN...

HE'S
NOT EVEN
HIDING
THE FACT
THAT HE
HATES
YOU.



AS
LONG AS
HE DOESN'T
CAUSE ANY
PROBLEMS
FOR TOHRU-
KUN...

WELL,
IT'S NONE
OF MY
BUSINESS.

THAT'S
TRUE.



REALLY...

HE'S
GIVING OFF
UNUSUALLY
NAIVE
WAVES...

EH?

NIGH-EVE?
WHAT IS THAT?
IS HE LIKE
DEPRESSED?

She really is eating it.

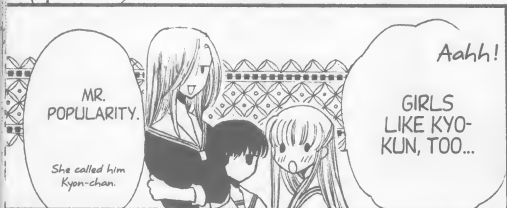
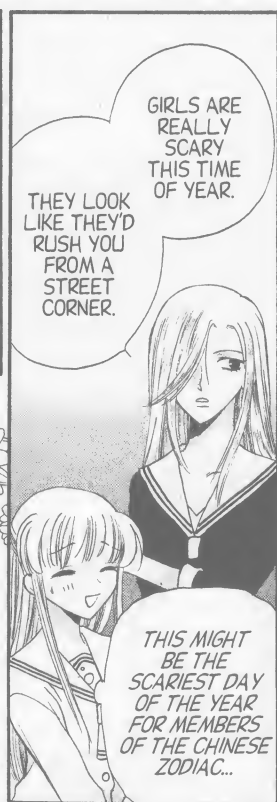
HE'S IN
CHAOS.

murmur

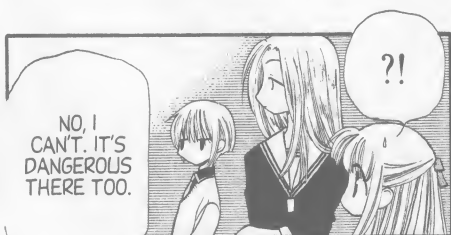
murmur

murmur

BUT...
SPEAKING
OF
DIFFERENT
...







NO, I
CAN'T. IT'S
DANGEROUS
THERE TOO.

?!



A JOURNEY...
YEAH, I'LL
TAKE A
NICE LONG
JOURNEY!

WHAAA?!

I NEED TO
DISAPPEAR
FOR A
WHILE!



BUT--?

KYO-
KUN?!

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN, A
JOURNEY...?

WHAT'S
THAT
ABOUT?



HUH?

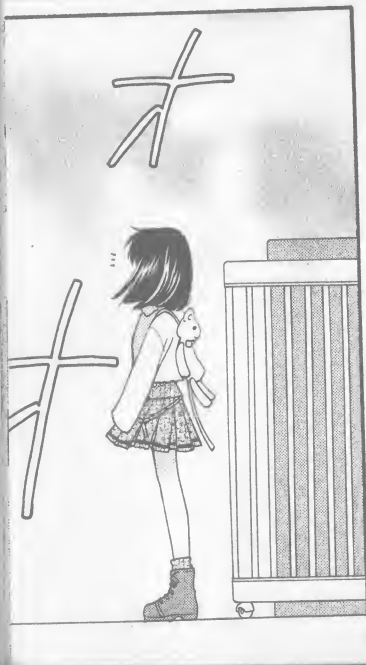
NO, IT'S
TOMORROW.

Don't you have a
calendar?

I'M GOING
HOME.

HUH?









...FOR
ME TO
SUDDENLY
FEEL SORRY
FOR KYO-
KUN.

I WONDER
IF IT'S
UNFAIR
TO
KAGURA...



KYO-KUN,
DON'T BE
RUDE.

*You'll break
my house.*

IT'S AN
IMPORTANT
DAY FOR
LOVERS.

WHAT?!

LOVERS?!



...IF HE
WOULD
LIKE TO GO
SOMEWHERE
WITH ME
TOMORROW...

...SO I CAN
GIVE HIM MY
CHOCOLATE...
ON THAT
SPECIAL
DAY!



DAMMIT...!
NONE OF THIS
WOULD HAVE
HAPPENED IF
I'D CUT CLASS
AND GONE ON
MY JOURNEY.

DAMNED
VALENTINE'S
DAY...SNEAKING
UP ON ME.

MOST
PEOPLE
WOULD'VE
NOTICED.



NO.
TODAY...

...I CAME
TO ASK
HIM...

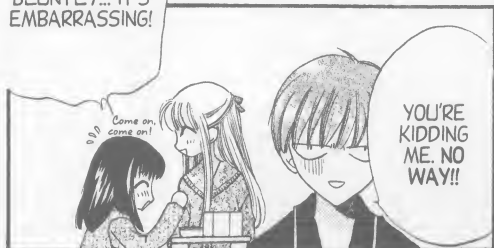
DID YOU
GIVE HIM
CHOCOLATE?



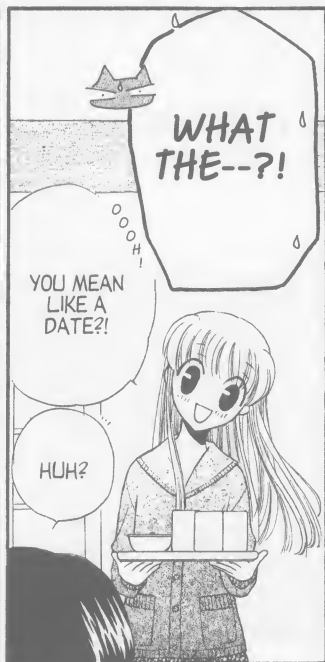
OH...OH
NO...

TOHRU-
KUN...!

YOU SAY IT SO
BLUNTLY... IT'S
EMBARRASSING!



YOU'RE
KIDDING
ME. NO
WAY!!



WHAT
THE--?!

YOU MEAN
LIKE A
DATE?!

HUH?



WHY WOULD I
DO SOMETHING
LIKE THAT WITH
SOMEONE LIKE
YOU?!

YOU'LL
DO IT...!

I SAID
NO!!

OINK?!



THAT'S ...

...SO CRUEL...

YOU COULD AT LEAST...



...BE A LITTLE NICER...



WHY DON'T WE DO THIS...?

WE'LL INVITE YUN-CHAN AND TOHRU-KUN...

...AND MAKE IT A DOUBLE DATE!



UGH! I CAN'T WATCH ANY LONGER.

IF YOU MUST MAKE OUT, PLEASE DO IT ELSEWHERE.

IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS, DAMMIT!



**EMOTIONAL
OVERLOAD.**

敗北

I GIVE
UP...

YOU
KNOW...

...HARU-
CHAN
TOLD
ME...

tee
bee

SEE YOU
TOMORROW!

I CAN'T
WAIT!

...THAT
YOU AND
YUN-CHAN
WERE
GETTING
ALONG A
LITTLE.

I CAN.

I CAN.

I CAN'T WAIT!

SEE YOU TOMORROW!



I'D LIKE
THAT TOO.

HE SAYS
IF YOU TWO
GET TO
KNOW EACH
OTHER
BETTER...

...YOU
MIGHT BE
ABLE TO
GET ALONG
EVEN
MORE!

Bye-
bye!



PEOPLE MUST
REMEMBER TO
COMPROMISE.

HAA-
KUN...

HE'S WISE
BEYOND
YEARS.



I HATE
YUKI!!!



AND
I LIKE
HATING
HIM!!



WHAT ARE
YOU TRYING
TO SAY...?

DON'T EVEN
THINK THAT
WE'RE GONNA
BE BEST
FRIENDS JUST
'CUZ YOU
GUYS HAVE
SOME DUMB
IDEAS.



"GET
TO KNOW
EACH
OTHER
BETTER"?

*What a
load of
crap!!*

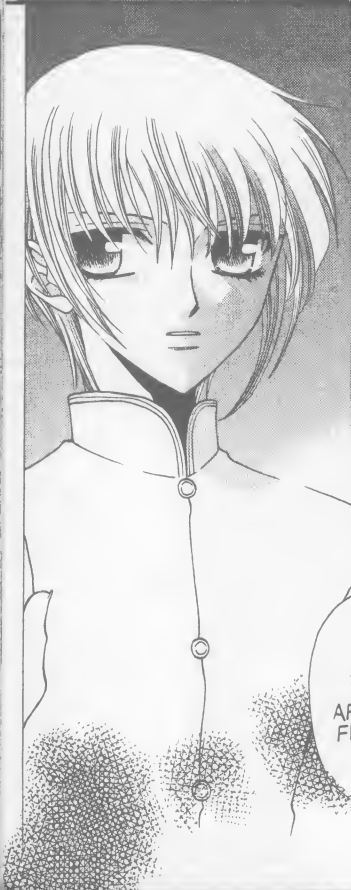


IT SUCKS
HANGING OUT
WITH HIM
ALL THE
TIME!



I WONDER
WHY?

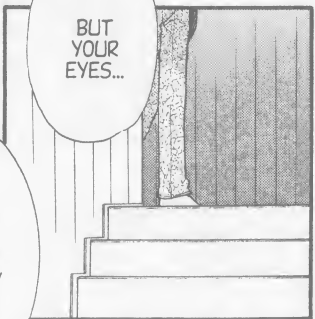
YOU
SPEAK AS
IF YOU'RE
OBLIGATED
TO HATE
HIM.



BUT
YOUR
EYES...

YOUR EYES
TELL A
DIFFERENT
STORY. THEY
TELL ME...

...THAT
YOU'RE
AFRAID TO
FIND OUT.









KY...



...
UNDERSTAND
WHAT HE
MEANT.



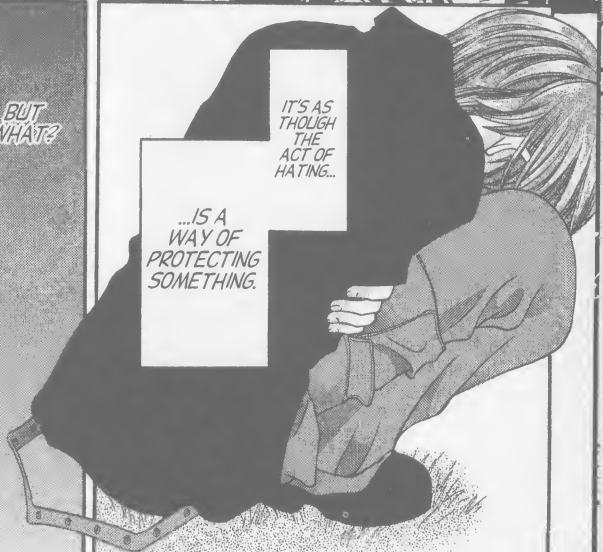
HIM-
SELF?

BUT
WHAT?

IT'S AS
THOUGH
THE
ACT OF
HATING...

...IS A
WAY OF
PROTECTING
SOMETHING.

"HE'S IN
CHAOS."



FORGET
IT.

...THAT
HE'LL HAVE
TO FIGURE
IT OUT FOR
HIMSELF.

I'M
SURE...

...THAT
THE
ANSWER
IS IN SUCH
A DEEP
PLACE...

BUT...

NO
MATTER
WHAT I
SAY...

...I WON'T
BE ABLE
TO FIX IT.

I MAY NOT
EVEN BE
ABLE TO
CHEER
HIM UP.

WHAT
HAPPENED
BACK
THERE. JUST
FORGET IT.

IT HAS
NOTHING TO
DO WITH
YOU.

LEAVE ME
ALONE,
ALL
RIGHT?



EVEN IF
YOU HATE
HIM...

...IF THAT
WILL
EASE YOUR
FEARS...

...IT'S
OKAY.



YOU KNOW,
YOU DON'T
HAVE TO
GET ALONG...
IT'S OKAY.



BUT...IT'S
OKAY.

I REALLY
DID THINK
THAT...

...I
WANTED
YOU
TO GET
ALONG...
BUT...



"I CAN
SEE
THEM."



...ON YOUR
BACK, KYO-
KUN."



"THERE'S AN
AMAZING
LIMEBOSHI."



"KYO-
KLIN..

...IS
WONDERFUL
TOO."

...YEAH.

—
...



YEAH...



...JUST
LIKE
YUKI-
KUN'S.

IT'S AS
THOUGH
IT WILL
BREAK IF I
TOUCH IT.

KYO-KUN'S
HEART IS VERY
DELICATE...



I DON'T
WANT TO
SEE.

I
DON'T...

...WANT
TO
THINK
ABOUT
IT.

NOT
YET.





I KNOW
WE MADE
PLANS TO
GO OUT...

ABOUT
TOMORROW
...

THEY
HOLD
ON TO
SUFFERING
...

...PAIN,
ANXIETY
...



...I HOPE I
CAN WIPE
THAT ALL
AWAY...

...LIKE
THEY DID
FOR ME.



UM...I
MEAN...

...BUT ARE YOU
SURE...YOU DON'T
WANT TO BE
ALONE WITH
KAGURA-SAN?

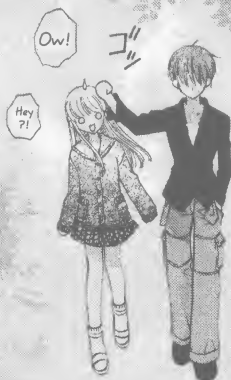
...IT'S FINE.
I DON'T
CARE.

JUST
THIS
ONCE.

R-
really?

SOME-
DAY...

...TO BE
HAPPY.



BECAUSE
I WANT
BOTH OF
THEM...

I'm not
like YOU!!

OF
COURSE
NOT!!

IT'S LIKE
NOTHING
HAPPENED
BETWEEN
THEM.

WELCOME
HOME.

YOU DIDN'T
DO ANYTHING
UNTOWARD TO
TOHRU-KUN,
DID YOU?

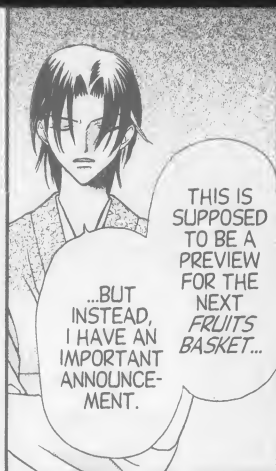


Chapter 16



...A
WOMAN!!

YUKI-
KUN IS
REALLY...



THIS IS
SUPPOSED
TO BE A
PREVIEW
FOR THE
NEXT
FRUITS
BASKET...

...BUT
INSTEAD,
I HAVE AN
IMPORTANT
ANNOUNCE-
MENT.



Kyo
(the Cat)

I KID,
I KID!

SEE, I JUST
THOUGHT
IT WOULD
MAKE MORE
OF AN
IMPACT...

Tohru
(the Heroine)

IT'S
STARTING!
♡

...IF I SAID
SOMETHING
DRAMATIC.
YOU'RE 100%
MALE, YUKI-KUN.
WELL...AT
LEAST 80%

Yuki
(the Rat)

Shigure
(the Dog)

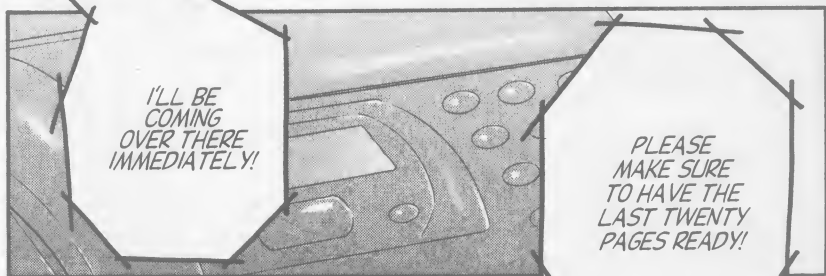
Omake Theater, Part 2





ULTRA SPECIAL BLAH BLAH BLAH 4

The main character of this episode is a fellow by the name of Mogeta! Okay, not really, but the name does come up. So does Aaya. I will explain the Mabudachi Trio in Volume 4! Anyway, don't you think it's cute when adults call their friends by pet names?





OH,
GO ON,
GO ON.

SHIGURE.

WE'RE
HEADING
OUT SOON.



I KNOW!

DON'T BE
SO CHEAP
AS TO GO
DUTCH OR
ANYTHING.



THAT'LL
BE NICE, A
DOUBLE
DATE.

ARE YOU
MEETING
KAGURA
AT THE
STATION?

YEAH.

Wouldn't
you say this
is the kind
of day that's
just begging
young lovers
to get out and
enjoy it?

What a
beautiful
day today!

Bah!

THIS IS
STUPID!!

UH...
UM...

KYO-KUN,
MAKE
SURE TO
TREAT HER
PROPERLY.

YOU JUST SEEM TO HAVE A LOT OF WORK TO DO AND EVERYTHING...

N-NO, I KNOW THAT...

LET HIM HANDLE IT.

THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO GO TO THE MAIN HOUSE.

...MY VALENTINE'S CHOCOLATE TO HATORI-SAN AND THE REST?

SHIGURE-SAN, ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN DELIVER...

IT'S OKAY. I WON'T EAT THEM.

TOHRU-KUN...

HAVE FUN, OKAY?

ACTUALLY, SHE ALREADY HAS ONCE.

O... OKAY...

Yuki and Kyo don't know about that time.

ポッ

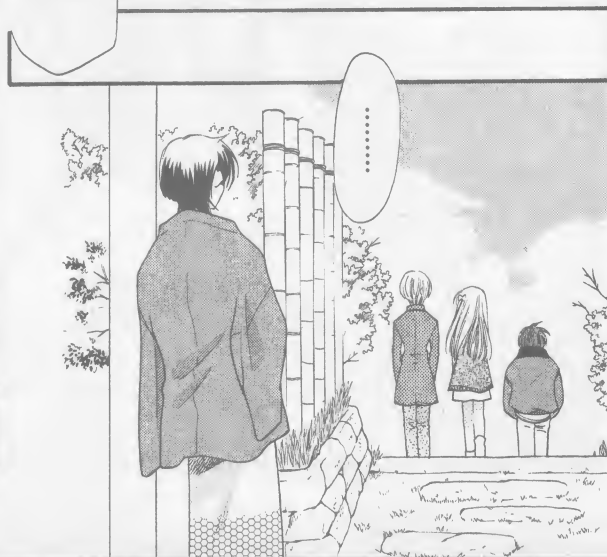
YES...

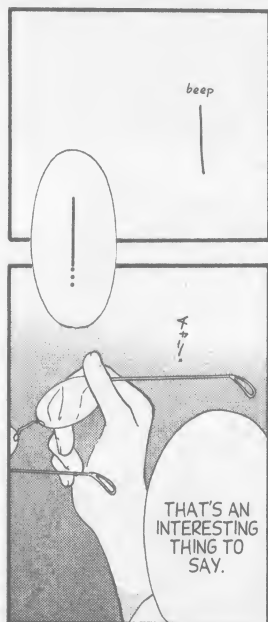
IT'S JUST AS YUKI-KUN SAYS.

Fruits Basket Part 4

I think people who read the magazine already know this, but I built my own home page. It was called "Chotto Ippuku." It took forever. First, I don't understand html tags. It's like learning alien language! I gave that up pretty quickly. I got some software that helps you build a home page without knowing tags, and little by little, I learned how to do it. There was no one around I could ask about it, so it was really hard. I'm updating regularly, but...I wonder how long I can keep this up...?

Editor's note: (Chotto Ippuku went offline in September 2002)







WELL, IF
THAT'S THE
KIND OF
BEHAVIOR
SHE EXPECTS
FROM ME...

...I MUST DO
MY PART
NOT TO LET
HER DOWN!

KYO-
KUN...!

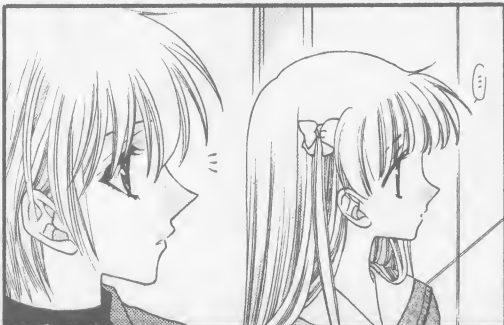
I WAS SO
EXCITED
ABOUT
TODAY, I
COULDN'T
SLEEP!

OH, YOU
MUST BE
TIRED.
BETTER GO
HOME AND
TAKE A
NAP.

ARE YOU
STILL
WORRIED
ABOUT
SHIGURE?

EH?

UH...
UM...

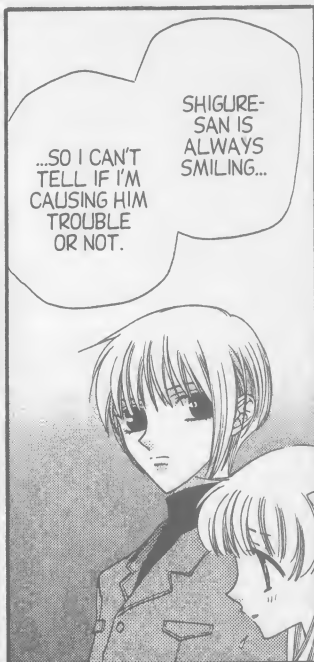




A LONG
TIME AGO...
SOMEONE
SAID:

ASIDE
FROM HATORI,
THERE ARE
VERY FEW
PEOPLE WHO
CAN TELL...

...WHAT
SHIGURE IS
THINKING.



SHIGURE-
SAN IS
ALWAYS
SMILING...

...SO I CAN'T
TELL IF I'M
CAUSING HIM
TROUBLE
OR NOT.



"HE'S LIKE A
RIPPLE ON
THE WATER."



"HE'S A MAN
WHO CAN'T
BE CAUGHT."

"IF YOU TRY
TO BRING
IT CLOSE
TO YOU,
IT PULLS
AWAY."

...IF YOU
TRY TO
CATCH IT,
IT WILL
PULL
FARTHER
AWAY."

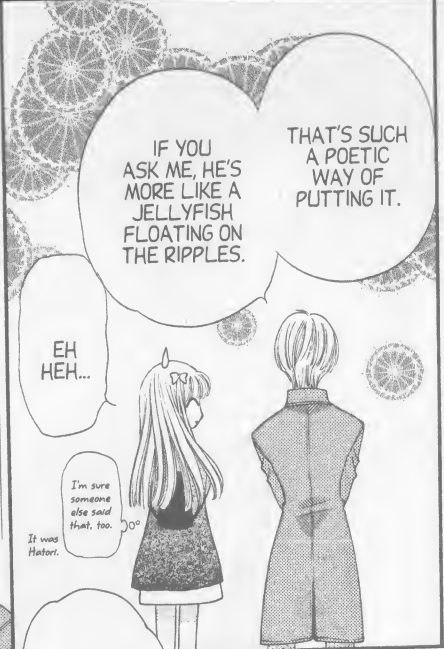
"THOUGH
IT MAY
BRUSH
AGAINST
YOUR
FEET..."



*"HE'S
ALWAYS
SMILING."*

*HE
MAY BE
SMILING
ON THE
OUTSIDE...*

*...BUT ON
THE INSIDE,
HE'S UP TO
SOMETHING.*



IF YOU
ASK ME, HE'S
MORE LIKE A
JELLYFISH
FLOATING ON
THE RIPPLES.

THAT'S SUCH
A POETIC
WAY OF
PUTTING IT.

EH
HEH...

I'm sure
someone
else said
that, too.

It was
Hatori.



YUN-
CHAN,
TOHRU-
KUN!

IF WE
DON'T
GET GOING
SOON, THE
MOVIE'LL
START
WITHOUT
US!



WE'RE
GOING TO
SEE A
MOVIE?

AH!
OKAY!

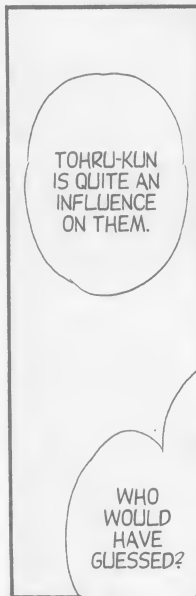




SHE
WANTED
TO BRING
IT HERE
HERSELF...

SHE IS
THOUGHTFUL..
THERE'S SOME
FOR MOMITCHI
AND HAA-
KUN TOO.

SHE'S VERY
THOUGHTFUL.



TOHRU-KUN
IS QUITE AN
INFLUENCE
ON THEM.

THAT'S...
UNEXPECTED.

ISN'T IT?!
YUKI AND
KYO!

WHO
WOULD
HAVE
GUESSED?



...BUT I
VOLUNTEERED
TO DELIVER
IT INSTEAD.

BECAUSE--
SHE'S OUT
ON A DATE!
THAT'S RIGHT!

SHE AND YUKI-
KUN, AND KYO-KUN
AND KAGURA ARE
ON A DOUBLE
DATE.

MOGETA: THE LAST CRUSADE

Only HE
can save
the world!

RIGHT
ABOUT
NOW, THEY
SHOULD BE
ENJOYING A
MOVIE...

MoGET...

...
TAAA!!

DON'T
GIVE IN
TO THE
FORCES
OF EVIL!!

MOGETA,
NO!!

MO
GET
TAA!!

Eeeek!
Aritamis
Donpanina
Tais trans-
formed into
Ariiii!!

Ariiii
Munch

Mogeta
has
completely--

CRUNCH
CRUNCH
MUNCH
CHOMP

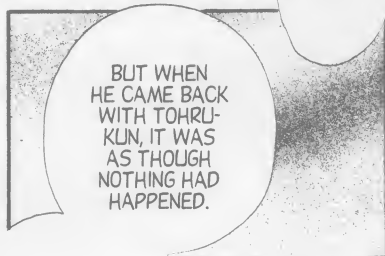


...I WAS
PICKING ON
KYO-KUN
A BIT...

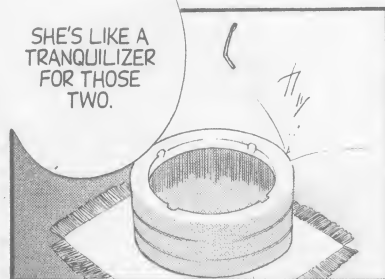


...AND
HE GOT
VERY
UPSET.

YOU
SHOULDN'T
DO THAT...



BUT WHEN
HE CAME BACK
WITH TOHRU-
KUN, IT WAS
AS THOUGH
NOTHING HAD
HAPPENED.



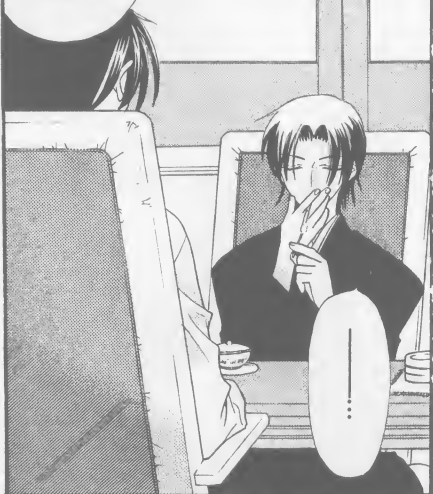
SHE'S LIKE A
TRANQUILIZER
FOR THOSE
TWO.



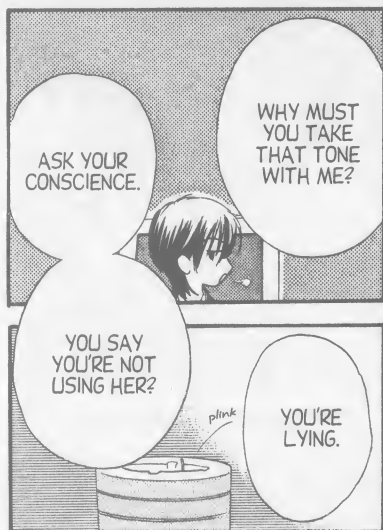
THAT...

...MIGHT
BE HER
INFLUENCE.

SHE DOES
HAVE
SOMETHING
ABOUT
HER...THAT
SOFTENS
PEOPLE.



...





BUT
FOR ME...

...IT STILL
REMAINS...

...IN MY
HEART.

...IT BECAME
SOMETHING
PAINFUL
FOR YOU
TWO.

DO YOU
REMEMBER
THE MORNING
I HAD THAT
DREAM?

YOU AND ME
AND AAYA
ALL CRIED,
REMEMBER?

THAT
MORNING
...

THAT
LONGING...



I WANT TO
BE ABLE TO
HOLD IT IN
MY HANDS.

...I WANT
TO MAKE
IT LAST
FOREVER.

I...

THAT
PASSION...

PARALYZINGLY
SWEET AND SAD.

AND I
WILL.

I
STILL...

...REMEMBER...

...THAT
VOW.



EVEN IF
SOMEONE
GETS HURT IN
THE PROCESS.

IF I CAN
MAKE IT
HAPPEN, I
WON'T FEEL
GUILTY
ABOUT...

...THE
MEANS TO
THAT END.



ESPECIALLY
WHEN I SEE
TOHRU-KUN.

IT'S NOT
WHAT YOU
THINK.

...SHE
REALLY IS...
A GOOD KID.



.....

THERE
ARE
TIMES...

...WHEN
I HATE
MYSELF
FOR IT.



I'M
FORCED
TO SEE...

...THAT
I MAY
BE...

...IT JUST
SEEMS TO
ME THAT
EVERYTHING'S
COMING
TOGETHER SO...
CLEANLY.

EVEN
THOUGH
SHE IS A
TRANQUILIZER
FOR YUKI-
KUN AND
KYO-KUN...

...THE
FILTHIEST
ONE.

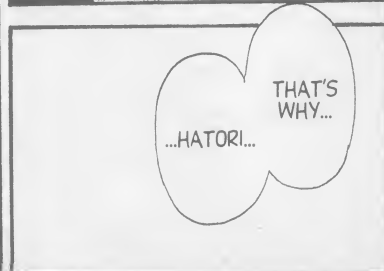


...I
ENVY...

...EVEN
YOU.



well, I
really
could use a
bath. But I
digress...



THAT'S
WHY...
...HATORI...



SENSEI...



I MAY
BE...

...THE
MOST
CURSED
OF US
ALL.



...OH.

ALL
RIGHT.

AKITO-SAN
IS READY
FOR HIS
CHECKUP.

WILL DO!

WHEN YOU GET HOME, BE SURE TO THANK HONDA-KUN FOR ME.

SHIGURE

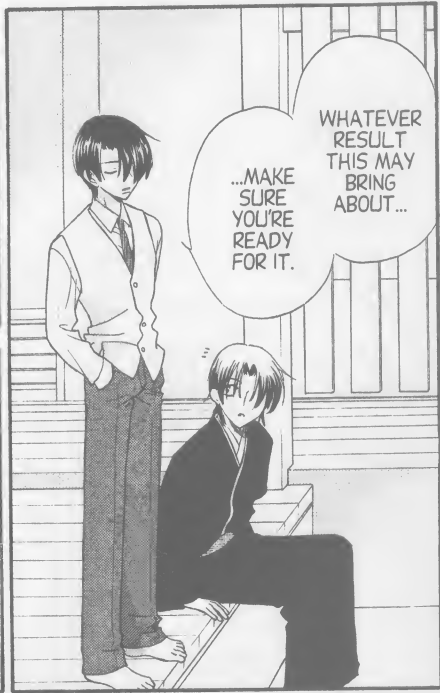
...



YEAH, I KNOW.

...I DON'T KNOW WHO, BUT ONE OF THESE DAYS, SOMEONE WILL LET LOOSE ON YOU.

IT MAY BE YUKI OR KYO... OR EVEN HONDA-KUN...





.....
WELL,
I'LL
SEE YOU
LATER.

SHIGURE.



BUT I
WON'T...

...BE
YOUR
ENEMY,
EITHER.

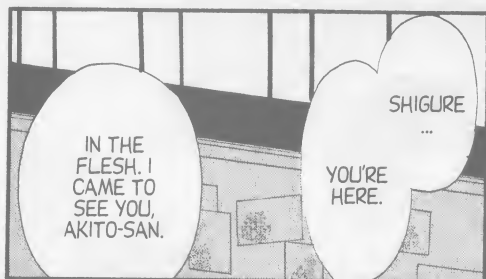


I'M
JUST AS
DIRTY...

...AS YOU
ARE.



DON'T LET
HIM CATCH
A COLD.



IN THE
FLESH. I
CAME TO
SEE YOU,
AKITO-SAN.

SHIGURE
...
YOU'RE
HERE.



I WILL
GET IT.

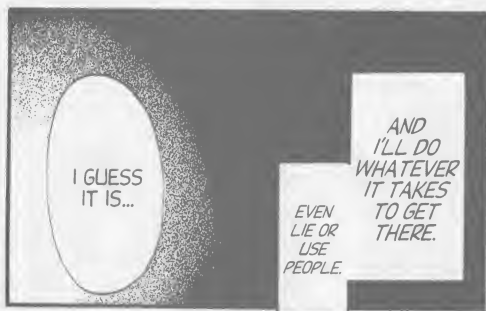
WELL...
ISN'T
THAT
OBVIOUS?



YOU
CAN
TAKE...

...MY
TEETH
...

...OR MY
BONES.



I GUESS
IT IS...

EVEN
LIE OR
USE
PEOPLE.

AND
I'LL DO
WHATEVER
IT TAKES
TO GET
THERE.

AKITO-
SAN.

THEY
DON'T
MATTER
TO ME.

THAT
WAS
FUN.

YEAH... IT
WAS SO
TOUCHING!

I KNOW!
I LIKED
THE
PART...

...WHEN
MOGETA
WAS
BEHIND THE
FEET OF
THE TRUE
EMPEROR!

I CRIED!!

...BECAUSE
YOU ARE
MOST
IMPORTANT
...

...MY
DEAR
AKITO-
SAN.

I WILL
MAKE THAT
DREAM
LAST
FOREVER.



YOU'RE SHAMELESS.

GO HOME!
RIGHT NOW!!

(You heard me!!)

KYO-KUN...?



Since we've become such good friends.

Call me Kagura-chan!

I WANT TO TRY TOHRU-KUN'S COOKING BEFORE I GO...

WHAT?!



...Mr.

OH...KYO-KUN'S EMBARRASSED.

YOU REALLY ARE...



REALLY... I'M GLAD...

...YOU WERE SO TOUCHED.

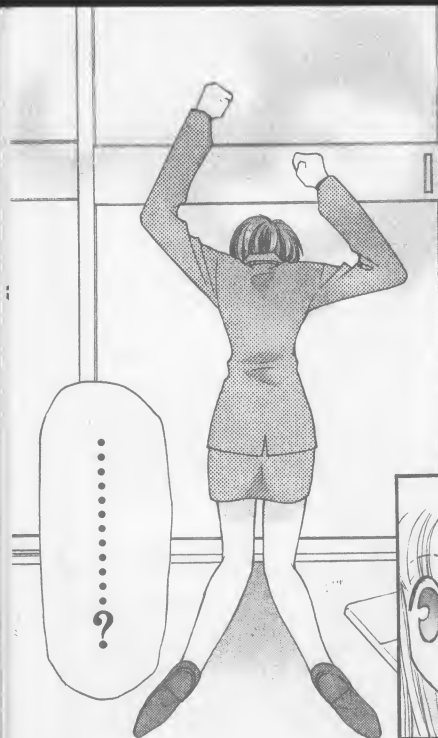
By the movie...

WHATEVER.
AS LONG AS I CAN FINALLY DITCH KAGURA.



GAAHH!

...
Bashful!



I WONDER
IF SHIGURE'S
HOME.

IT IS
PRETTY
LATE...

Indifferent



UH...
AH...

HAAH...



**-KILL
MYSELF!!**

WHAT?!



UM...
EXCUSE
ME...?

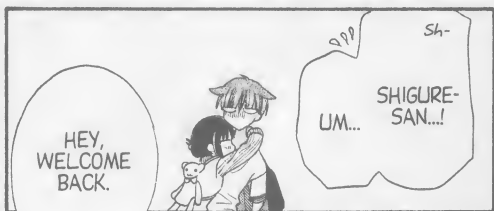
IS SOME-
THING...
WRONG?

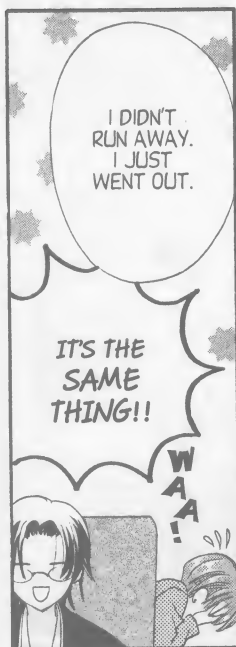
WRONG?
NO...

NO, I'M
FINE NOW.
COMPLETELY
FINE.

HUH?

NOW, IF
YOU DON'T
MIND, I'M
GOING
TO--





She's like a new
bride. (Ha ha!)





YOUR
HAND!!
YOUR
HAND!!

IT'S
MOVING!!
SOMEONE
GET SOME
PAPER!!

YES,
YES.



ホ
リ
ホ
リ

—
:
—



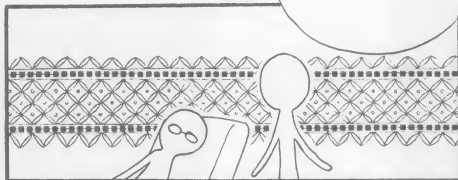
...HAS
ALWAYS
BEEN ME.

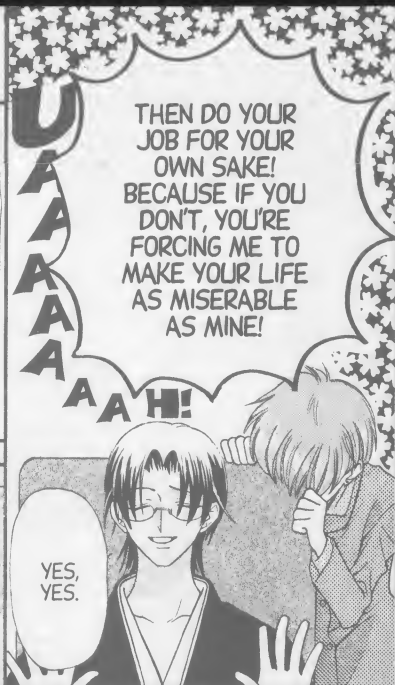
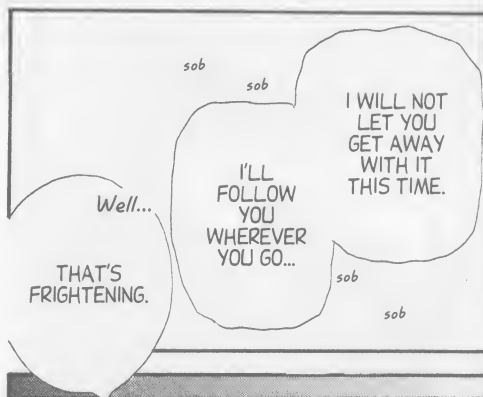


PLEASE
TAKE YOUR
JOB A
LITTLE
MORE
SERIOUSLY.

ISN'T
YOUR JOB
IMPORTANT
TO YOU?

HUH? THE
MOST
IMPORTANT
THING TO
ME...







Chapter 17



ULTRA SPECIAL BLAH BLAH BLAH 5

"The Most Foolish Traveler in the World" is an original work by Takaya. No matter how hard you look, you won't find it in a bookstore. Everyone tells me that story is very much my style. Rather than try to elicit a cheap cry, I really wanted to make readers face their own emotions.

Fruits Basket 3 Part 5

In Vol. 2 I said there weren't any plans for it, but a Furuba CD drama is coming out after all! It's a special offer, so it's not being sold to the public. These things happen suddenly, so it might be a good idea to check the magazine. Currently, the script isn't even done, but I hope it turns out to be fun! It's an oasis in the desert of my heart!! King of MidoriXXXX-san (it probably won't mean anything to censor his name at this point...) is... not in it. Sometimes I hate myself because I get serious at strange times. I really like all the voice actors who have agreed to be in Furuba, so I'm still very happy! I'm looking forward to it!

To be continued...





OH,
COME
ON...

I DIDN'T
DO THAT
MUCH...

EVEN THOUGH
HE HAD HIS OWN
STUDYING TO DO,
HE TOOK THE
TIME TO EXPLAIN
THINGS SO THAT
I COULD UNDER-
STAND THEM.

YUKI-KUN
HELPED
ME
STUDY.



Shigure
gets in the
way.



THANK
YOU SO, SO
MUCH!



DAMMIT! I'M
TOO SCARED
OF THE
ELECTRO-
POISON WAVE
GIRL TO GET
NEAR THEM!!

WHAT?!
WHAT THE
HELL ARE
THEY TALKING
ABOUT?!!
TELL US!!

SOHMA-
KUN IS
SMILING!!

SOHMA-
KUN!!



YES,
MOTHER
WAS
CRYING...

...I HAD
TO TAKE
SUPPLEMENTARY
LESSONS
EVERY DAY...

...AND MY
PARENTS
WERE
CALLED
IN FOR
CONFERENCES
...



HEY,
HANAJIMA-
SAN...!

REALLY? ...

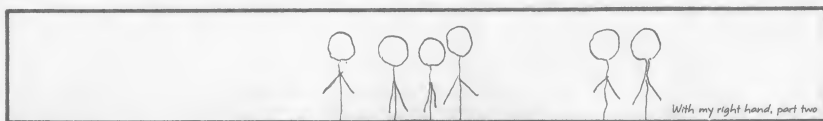
I BET
YOU DID
GREAT.



LET'S
SEE...I
THINK...

HOW
DID YOU DO
ON LAST
SEMESTER'S
FINALS?

YEAH! WELL,
YOU SURE
LOOK SMART,
AND PEOPLE
SAY YOU
CAN SENSE
WAVES OR
SOMETHING.



With my right hand, part two



A SIXTH
SENSE CANNOT
MAKE UP FOR
A TOTAL LACK
OF COMMON
SENSE.

WHAT
ABOUT
YOUR
SIXTH
SENSE?

THAT'S...

I MEAN...



THERE ARE A LOT OF VERY SUCCESSFUL PEOPLE WHO ARE STUPID.

RELAX, HANA-JIMA.

YOU'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT ME, ARE YOU?

...HEY!

Heh, heh!
YOU DIDN'T DO THAT AGAIN, DID YOU?

ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO STUDIES ALL THE TIME BUT ENDS UP BLOWING TESTS BECAUSE HE STUDIED ALL THE WRONG THINGS.

YOU'RE ONE OF THEM.

Oh...
I get it.

He is normal, too.

I'M GOING TO STRANGLE YOU BOTH!

I'VE NEVER HAD TO TAKE EXTRA LESSONS OR HAVE MY PARENTS CALLED IN!!

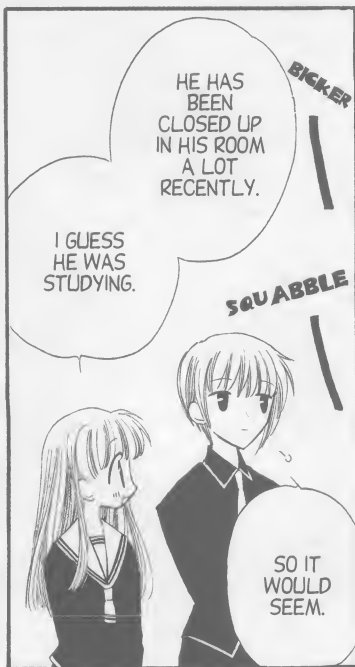
HUH?
SURE I AM!

HMM.
I DIDN'T THINK HE'D BE ABLE TO MAKE TIME BETWEEN HIS FIGHTS.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, KYON-KYON ACTUALLY DOES STUDY.

WHAT, DO YOU MEAN "ACTUALLY?!"

Meaning it's a normal thing.





YOU CAN
FINALLY
TAKE A
BREAK FROM
STUDYING!

IT'S GREAT
THAT YOUR
TESTS ARE
OVER.

← He's helping.

YES! IT'S
ALMOST TIME
FOR SPRING
BREAK, AND
THEN THE NEW
TERM...

TIME
REALLY
DOES FLY.

IT
SURE
DOES.

I HAVE A
PRESENT!

B
E
C
A
U
S
E
!!

HEE HEE,
IT'S--

A
PRESENT?!
WHAT
IS IT?

VATI AND
SHII-CHAN
SAID IT'S
OKAY.

AH! TODAY
I'M GOING
WITH YOU TO
SHII-CHAN'S
HOUSE.

REALLY
?

**Guten
Abend!**
(Good evening!)



I-I can't
wait!

OH! IT'S
A SECRET
UNTIL WE
GET BACK!
♡



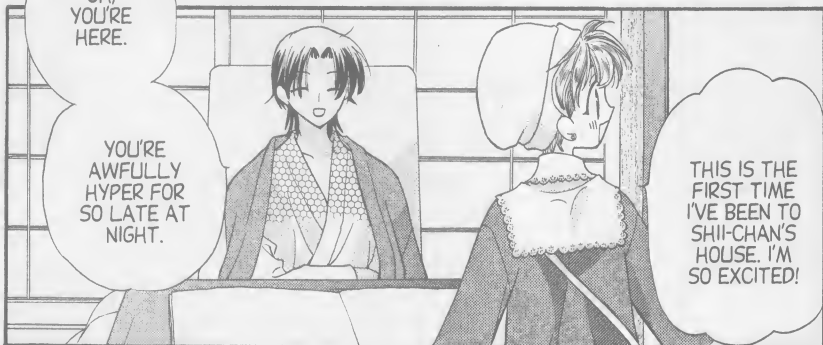
DOES
ANYONE KNOW
WHO THAT
CHILD IS?

He's awfully
cute...

He's the son of the president of the building.

OH,
YOU'RE
HERE.

YOU'RE
AWFULLY
HYPER FOR
SO LATE AT
NIGHT.



THIS IS THE
FIRST TIME
I'VE BEEN TO
SHII-CHAN'S
HOUSE. I'M
SO EXCITED!





TOMORROW,
I'M GIVING
TOHRU A
TRIP TO THE
ONSEN!!

MARCH 14TH
IS WHITE
DAY!! IT'S A
DAY LATE,
THOUGH.

* onsen = hot springs



ER, UH,
YES?

A QUESTION
FOR TOHRU!

Don don
potaru!

WHAT
DAY IS
TODAY?!



DING
DING
DING!

UM,
WELL,
TODAY
IS...

...THE
FIFTEENTH.



SEE!
THERE'S
ONE RUN
BY THE
SOHMAS,
RIGHT?

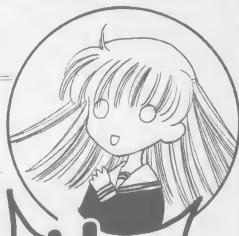
WHAT
ONSEN
ARE YOU
GOING
TO?

Oohh...
that
place...

ON...

I CALL
IT, "MINE
AND TOHRU'S
STEAMY ONSEN
HEARTFUL
TOUR"!!

YOU
DON'T
HAVE TO
NAME IT.



H
U
H
?!



I WONDER
IF SHE'D
FORGIVE
ME...

...ONSEN...

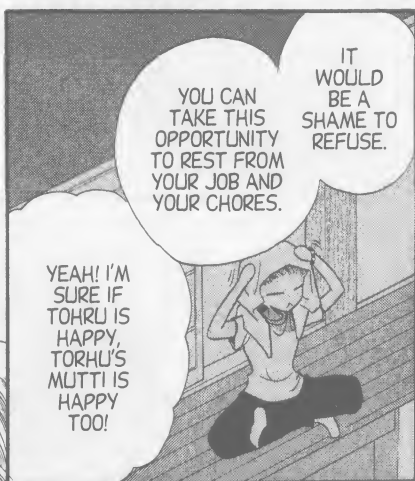
UM, TOHRU-KUN,
IT'S JUST AN
ONSEN. HE'S NOT
ASKING YOU TO
GO TO PARIS OR
ANYTHING.

I COULDN'T
GO TO SUCH AN
EXTRAVAGANT
PLACE AND
FORGET ABOUT
MOM.



I'M SO
VERY
HAPPY!

I
LOVE
IT...!



YOU CAN
TAKE THIS
OPPORTUNITY
TO REST FROM
YOUR JOB AND
YOUR CHORES.

IT
WOULD
BE A
SHAME TO
REFUSE.

YEAH! I'M
SURE IF
TOHRU IS
HAPPY,
TORHU'S
MUTTI IS
HAPPY
TOO!



...OR
...DON'T
YOU
LIKE
IT?



YOUR GRAND-
FATHER GOT A
CALL FROM THE
TEACHER AND
CALLED ME.

HE SAID
HE'LL PAY
FOR IT IF HE
NEEDS TO.



NO! HE
CAN'T...!

LAST
MONTH,
THAT IS...
A LOT
HAPPENED...
UM...

At Tohru's school,
the only class trip is
in the second year.

I'M SORRY
TO CHANGE
THE SUBJECT,
BUT I JUST
REMEMBERED
...

TOHRU-KUN,
I UNDERSTAND
YOU HAVEN'T
PAID LAST
MONTH'S
DEPOSIT FOR
YOUR CLASS
TRIP?

OH
?!



OH...
THAT'S
WHAT
THEY WERE
TALKING
ABOUT.

BUT,
TOHRU-KUN,
YOU WORK
SO HARD. SO
WHERE DID
THE MONEY--?

I-I'M
SORRY FOR
CAUSING YOU
TROUBLE!

And
making
Uo-chan
and Hana-
chan
worry...

B-BUT I CAN
PAY IT OFF
WITH THE
MONEY I EARN
AT WORK THIS
MONTH, SO
IT'S OKAY.

I ALREADY
TOLD THE
TEACHER.

TO PAY FOR...THE VALENTINE'S... CHOCOLATE

It's
still un-
decided.

Where
are you
going
on your
trip?

...?





WHY
DIDN'T WE
REALIZE...?

BECAUSE
SHE KEEPS
SMILING LIKE
THAT!

HOW
COULD
WE...?!



YOU
CONTROLLED
YOUR ANGER
WELL..

VERY
GOOD,
VERY
GOOD.

BESIDES,
IT'S NOT LIKE
CHOCOLATE FALLS
FROM THE SKY.
OBVIOUSLY TOHRU-
KUN HAD TO PAY
FOR IT OUT OF HER
OWN POCKET.



SHE'S GOING
TO BE AT A
DISADVANTAGE
HER WHOLE
LIFE!!

HEY,
HEY!

She's
such an
idiot!

ONE DAY,
SHE'LL
REALLY
REGRET IT!!



WHY DOES SHE
HAVE TO BE LIKE
THAT?! SHE'S
ONLY MAKING
THINGS HARDER
ON HERSELF!

SHE COULD
HAVE USED
THAT MONEY TO
BUY HERSELF
SOME CLOTHES
OR SHOES OR
TO PAY HER
DEPOSIT!!

WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?

THIS KID
REALLY LIKES
WEIRD BOOKS.
LAST TIME HE
BROUGHT ONE
CALLED "A
UNIVERSE OF
STEW."

AND
THERE WAS
A KID WHO
BROUGHT
A BOOK TO
THE CLASS
MEETING.

YOU KNOW,
YESTERDAY I
HAD A CLASS
MEETING.

HUH?

IT WAS
CALLED "A
COLLECTION
OF FUNNY
STORIES."

**Shichuu no Uchuu*

...A STORY
CALLED, "THE
MOST FOOLISH
TRAVELER IN
THE WORLD."

OH, YEAH.
ANYWAY, WE
ALL READ
THE BOOK
TOGETHER.

THERE
WAS ONE
STORY IN
THERE...

ON THAT
JOURNEY, HE
WAS TRICKED
INTO GIVING
AWAY ALL
HIS MONEY,
CLOTHES, AND
SHOES.

A FOOLISH
TRAVELER
WAS ON A
JOURNEY.

BUT THE
TRAVELER
WAS FOOLISH,
SO WHEN THE
TOWNSPEOPLE
LIED TO HIM
SAYING, "THIS
WILL REALLY
HELP"...

HE WAS
STUPID BECAUSE
HE WAS EASILY
TRICKED. THE
TOWNSPEOPLE
TOOK ADVANTAGE
OF HIM.

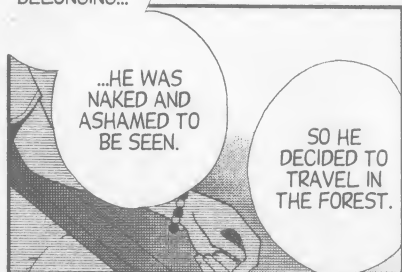
*I need
money for
seeds for
my crops...*

*I need
money for
medicine*

*My little
sister is
sick...*



WHEN HE
GAVE AWAY
HIS LAST
BELONGING...



...HE WAS
NAKED AND
ASHAMED TO
BE SEEN.

SO HE
DECIDED TO
TRAVEL IN
THE FOREST.



...AND HE
WOULD SAY,
"PLEASE BE
HAPPY."

...TEARS
WOULD
STREAM DOWN
HIS FACE...

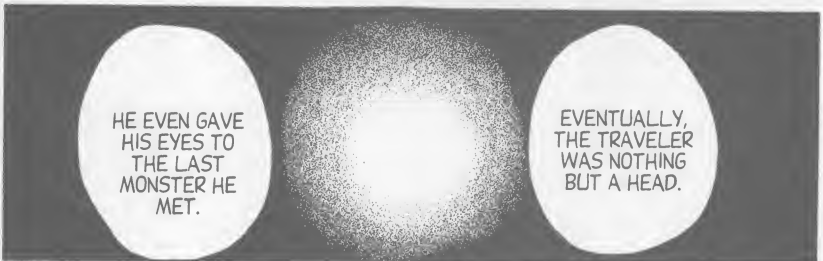


OF COURSE,
THE TRAVELER
WAS FOOLED
AND WHEN THE
MONSTERS
ASKED, HE GAVE
UP HIS ARMS
AND HIS LEGS.

My
child is
sick...
→ Clever?

THEY
WANTED TO
EAT HIM,
SO THEY
TRICKED HIM
WITH CLEVER
WORDS.

THEN HE
MET THE
MONSTERS
WHO LIVED
IN THE
FOREST.



HE EVEN GAVE
HIS EYES TO
THE LAST
MONSTER HE
MET.

EVENTUALLY,
THE TRAVELER
WAS NOTHING
BUT A HEAD.

AND
WHILE
HE WAS
CRYING...

"THANK
YOU,
THANK
YOU."

"THIS IS THE
FIRST TIME
ANYONE'S GIVEN
ME ANYTHING.
I'M SO HAPPY.
THANK YOU.
THANK YOU."

...HE DIED.

AND
TEARS KEPT
FLOWING
FROM HIS EYE
SOCKETS.

...HE SAID,
"THANK YOU.
I'LL GIVE
YOU THIS IN
RETURN," AND
LEFT HIM.

BUT THAT
WAS A LIE,
TOO.

HIS GIFT WAS
A SINGLE PIECE
OF PAPER THAT
HAD "FOOL"
WRITTEN ON IT.

BUT THE
TRAVELER
CRIED AND
CRIED, SAYING:

AS THE
MONSTER
MUNCHED
ON HIS
EYES...

Fool

Fool





EVERY-
ONE
...



...
LAUGHED.



AND...

...I
THOUGHT
...

I THOUGHT
ABOUT THE
TRAVELER WHO
WAS TRICKED
INTO BEING
NOTHING BUT
A CRYING HEAD
SAYING, "THANK
YOU."

...AND
THOUGHT
ABOUT THE
TRAVELER.



...!
CLOSED
MY
EYES...

Moron!
Loser!

HA
HA
HA

Stupid!



WHILE
THEY
LAUGHED
...



...HOW...

...LUCKY...



...HE
WAS.

IT'S
POINTLESS
TO THINK
ABOUT
THEM.

THE
TRAVELER
DIDN'T THINK
ABOUT
THEM.

SUFFERING
...

LOSS...



I JUST
WANT TO
MAKE THEM
HAPPY.

I WON'T TRICK
ANYONE, EVEN
IF OTHER
PEOPLE THINK
THAT PERSON
DESERVES IT.

...BUT
IT'S NOT
STUPID
TO ME.

THAT ...
MIGHT BE
STUPID
TO SOME
PEOPLE...



KYO?

DO YOU
REALLY
THINK
THAT'S
STUPID?

YUKI?

...

...WHAT
DO YOU
THINK?

WHEN
YOU
CLOSE
YOUR
EYES...



OH...



HOW...?

I'LL
GO.





IT WILL BE
SO MUCH MORE
FUN WITH YOU
THERE! I'M SO
HAPPY!!

?!

NO, NO,
I DO
CARE!



THANK
YOU SO
MUCH!

I'M SO
HAPPY!

THANK
YOU SO
MUCH!

YOU...

...

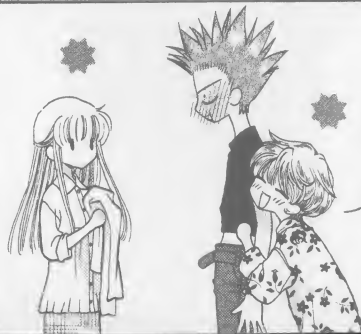


...YOU
REALLY
ARE...

...HOPELESS.

.....

Kyo's
got the
hots!







I CAN'T
WAIT TO
GO TO THE
ONSEN!!

YOU KNOW,
A BUS IS
GONNA COME
PICK US UP!

YES!!

THEN IT'LL
TAKE US
DIRECTLY TO
THE ONSEN!

TH-
THAT'S
GREAT!!

REALLY?!

OUR
STEAMY
ONSEN
TOUR...

...WAS
ABOUT
TO BEGIN!



Chapter 18



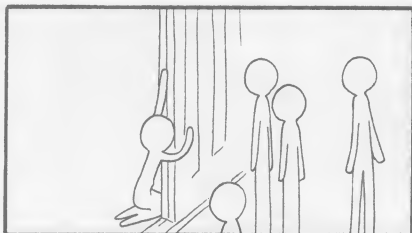
ULTRA SPECIAL BLAH BLAH BLAH 6

The people who have read my other manga will know--the hostess is actually a revival of the ghost woman from "Tsubasa o Motsu Mono." I thought it would be a waste to not use this character anymore...so I brought her back. It's very rare. Normally, I don't do that kind of thing.

Fruits Basket 3 Part 6

Maybe because I said I really, really like King Of-san is why I get a lot of information about him and a lot of people saying, "I like him too ♥!" So, I guess he really is popular! I think... I really must have been lucky to have him play Raimon. So I support him as a fan too. Anyway, since I started using the 'net, I've had the opportunity to meet a lot of people; for someone like me who spends all her time closed up inside working, it's kind of a sensational feeling. Maybe next I'll get a driver's license?! (Nah, that will never happen.) Someone as careless as me should not be allowed to drive. I'm sure I'd get into an accident. Oh no... Ah!!! I haven't talked about video games!! I'm almost done with Persona 2: Tsumi (AKA Persona 2: Eternal Punishment), and then I'll finish Ore no Shikabane (not available in the U.S).





THAT'S
CONCIERGE.

SHE'S THE
CONCUBINE!



YES,
MA'AM!

UGUAAA-
AHHH!
MAKE YOUR-
SELVES AT
HOOOOOME!!



W...

WELCOME

...TO...
MY
HUMBLE
...

ガ
タ
...

...INN...



I SEE...

I'M
SORRY FOR
SCARING
YOU...

HER BODY
IS WEAK, SO
SHE LIVES
HERE FOR
MEDICAL
REASONS.

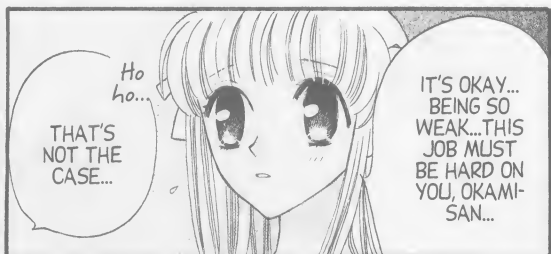
OUR
CONCUBINE
IS IN THE
SOHMA
FAMILY
TOO.



YOUR
HEALTH IS
THE MOST
IMPORTANT
THING.

UH...UM,
PLEASE
DON'T PUSH
YOURSELF.

MY, MY...
WHAT A
KIND GIRL...
THANK
YOU.

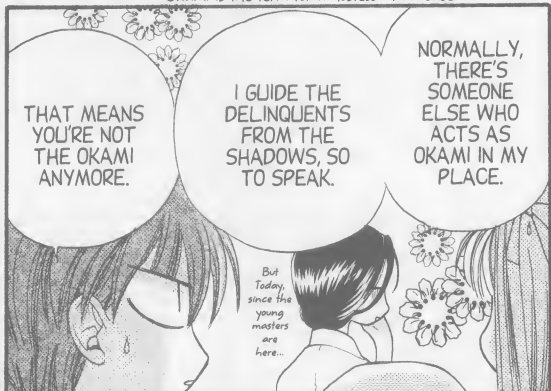


Ho
ho...

THAT'S
NOT THE
CASE...

IT'S OKAY...
BEING SO
WEAK...THIS
JOB MUST
BE HARD ON
YOU, OKAMI-
SAN...

*Okami is the term for a hostess at an onsen.



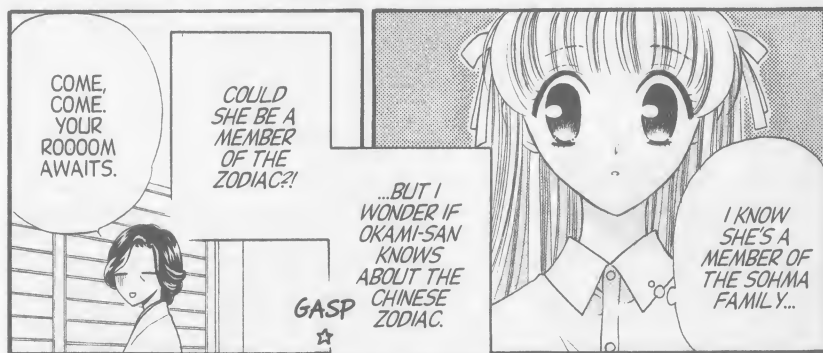
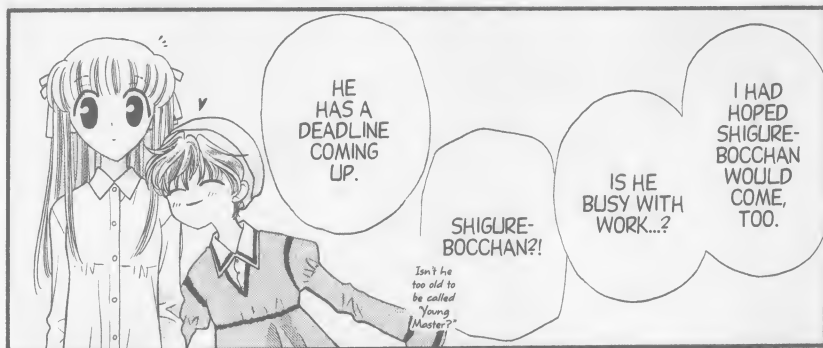
THAT MEANS
YOU'RE NOT
THE OKAMI
ANYMORE.

I GUIDE THE
DELINQUENTS
FROM THE
SHADOWS, SO
TO SPEAK.

NORMALLY,
THERE'S
SOMEONE
ELSE WHO
ACTS AS
OKAMI IN MY
PLACE.

But
Today,
since the
young
masters
are
here...

By the way, there are waitresses too.



THAT'S
NOT THE
PROBLEM!!

IN A
CLASSY
PLACE
LIKE THIS, I
SHOULDN'T
HAVE TO
SHARE A
ROOM WITH
YUKI!!!

YOU'RE
JUST
SAYING
THAT...

DON'T
WORRY. YOU
CAN SEPARATE
THE ROOM WITH
A SCREEN.

YOU GET
ALONG AS
POORLY
AS EVER,
I SEE.

DON'T TELL
ME I'M IN THE
SAME ROOM
AS THAT
DAMN YUKI...?

-THAT!

AH
?!

...BECAUSE KYO
WANTS TO
SHARE A ROOM
WITH TOHRU!

You
stu--

DISGUSTING.

THAT'S
NOT WHAT
I MEANT!!

MOMIJI,
DON'T SAY
STUFF LIKE--

K
Y
O
C
H
A
A
A
A
A
N
!

TO THINK THAT
YOU WOULD WANT
TO STAY IN A
ROOM WITH A
GIRL EVEN IF YOU
ARE THE CAT
I BELIEVED YOU
WERE A GOOD
BOY WHEN DID YOU
BECOME SUCH
A LASCIVIOUS
CHILD?! OH, HOW
FRIIIIIIIIIIIIIGHT-
FULLLLLLLLLLLLLLLL!!

YOU'RE THE
FRIGHTFUL
ONE!!

おおおお

IS SHE
REALLY
THAT
WEAK?

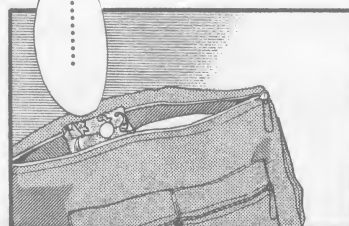
IIII
AMMM
SOOOO
SORRRYYY!

That's not what
I meant!

FINE! I'LL
STAY WITH
YUKI!!

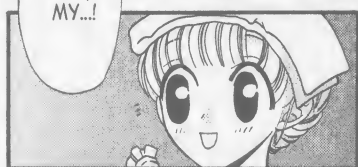
I WILL
APOLOGIZE ON
YOUR BEHALF I
WILL APOLOGIZE
TO THE WORLD
I'M SORRY FOR
HIS LASCIVIOUS-
NESSSSSSS!












*iei: a portrait of a deceased person





...THE
SPIRIT
OF THE
MONKEY
POSSESSES
HIM.

...BUT MY SON
IS A MEMBER OF
THE CHINESE
ZODIAC TOO. LIKE
YUN-BOCCHAN AND
THE OTHERS...

I FORGOT
TO TELL
YOU THIS
EARLIER...

MY...

THAT'S A
VERY NICE
THOUGHT...

I WANTED
MOM TO
ENJOY THE
ONSEN TOO!



...I WAS
UNEASY...

WHEN I
FIRST HEARD
ABOUT YOU,
TOHRU-SAN,
TO BE
HONEST...

EH?!

...THAT
SOMEONE ON
THE OUTSIDE
SHOULD
KNOW THE
FAMILY
SECRET.

I THOUGHT
IT MIGHT
ENDANGER MY
SON AND THE
OTHERS EVEN
MORE.



...THAT
IT'S YOU,
TOHRU-
SAN.

I'M
RELIEVED
...

BUT NOW I
APOLOGIZE
FOR FEELING
THAT WAY.



WHEN
THE DAY
COMES
FOR YOU
TO MEET
MY SON...

...PLEASE
TREAT HIM
AS KINDLY...



MONKEY-
SAN!

*This is supposed to be
the Golden Monkey.*

OH, I REALLY
WANT TO
MEET HIM
SOON!!



UM...
WHAT IS
HE LIKE?



...AS YOU
HAVE THE
YOUNG
MASTERS.



I'M SORRRYYYYYYY!
FROM THE WORLD'S
POINT OF VIEW HE'S
LIKE THAT BUT HE'S
VERY PRECIOUS TO
ME DEEP DOWN HE'S
VERY KIND HE'S MY
ONLY CHILD I WILL
APOLOGIZE FOR
HIM I WILL
APOLOGIZE TO THE
WOOORRRLLLLLLLL!!



HE LIVES
"OUTSIDE" LIKE
SHII-CHAN, SO
I'M SURE HE'LL
COME VISIT YOU
THERE!!

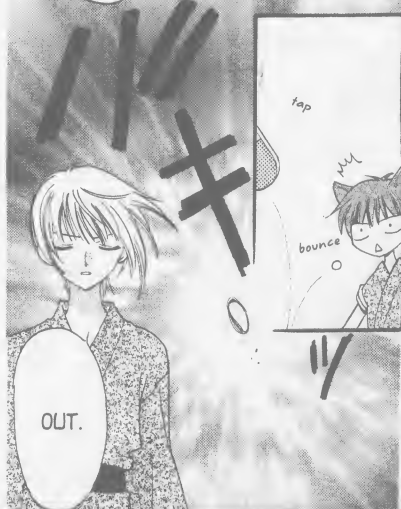
"RITCHAN"
SAN...

HEY!
ANYWAY,
TOHRU,
WANNA
PLAY PING-
PONG?

THAT'S
RIGHT!
CONCUBINE-
SAN IS
RIT-CHAN'S
MUTT!!

I FORGOT
TO TELL
YOU!

Verzeihung
(I'm sorry)





I CAN'T
PLAY THIS
GAME!

**FISTS!!
MEN FIGHT
WITH THEIR
FISTS!!**

YOU
CHALLENGED
ME TO PING-
PONG.



OKAY!

I'M
TELLING
YOU NOW--
I WON'T GO
EASY ON YOU
JUST BECAUSE
YOU'RE A
GIRL..



HUH?!

UH,

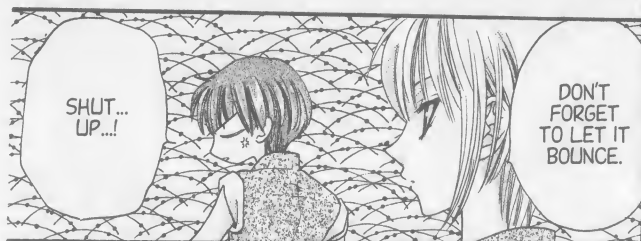
UM,
THAT
IS, W-W-
WELL--

PLEASE!
PLEASE
PLAY WITH
ME!!



DO IT!
DO IT!

YAY! THAT
SHOULD
BE FUN!



SHUT...
UP...!

DON'T
FORGET
TO LET IT
BOUNCE.

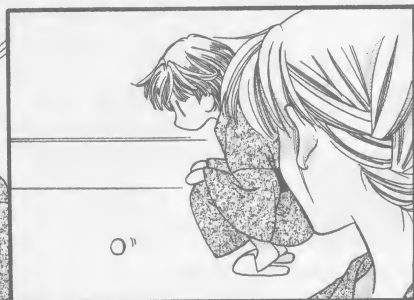
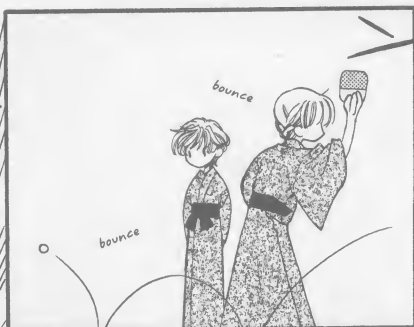
ALL
RIGHT...
HERE IT
COMES...

OKAY!!

ORAH!



H
A
H
!









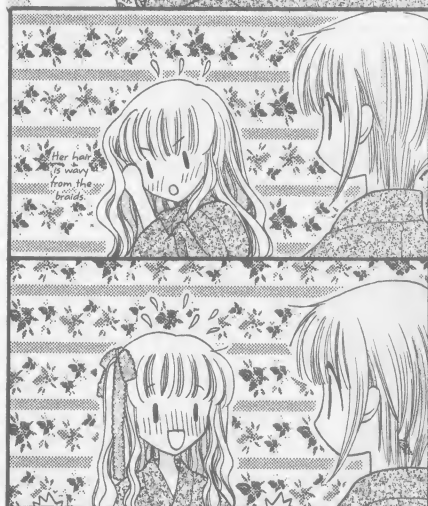
IT'S MY
RETURN
GIFT.

THIS...

...IS FOR
YOU.

?

I WANTED TO
GIVE IT TO YOU
SOONER, BUT I
COULDN'T GET
THE TIMING
RIGHT.



Her hair
is so wavy
from the
brides...

I DIDN'T KNOW
WHAT TO GET
YOU...BUT I
THOUGHT THAT
WOULD BE THE
MOST FITTING.

Thank
you very
much...!

Th-



...PRINCESS?

EH?!

DO
YOU...

...LIKE
IT...

THEN...

I-I'M SO
TOUCHED!!

Uh,
uh...

UM,
YES!

OF
COURSE!!



OR
SOME-
THING.

RIGHT?

L/WAAA!

I AM
GREATLY
HONORED.

... blush

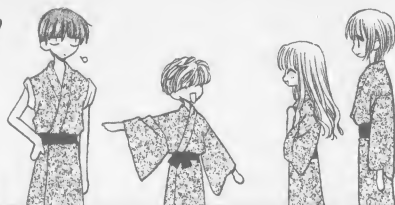
HE
REALLY
IS LIKE A
PRINCE!



HANDSOME,
CUTE...

MOM...

...AND KIND
PRINCES.



THERE ARE
SO MANY
PRINCES IN
THE SOHMA
FAMILY.

...TO BE ABLE TO
SPEND TIME WITH
THEM LIKE THIS.

...VERY HAPPY...

I REALLY
AM...

TONIGHT'S
ANOTHER
NIGHT...

...THAT I MUST BE
THANKFUL FOR.

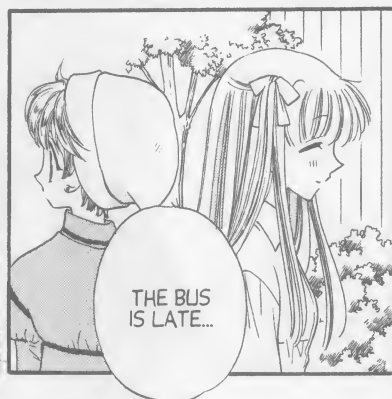
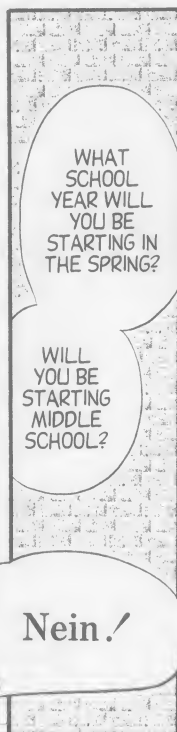


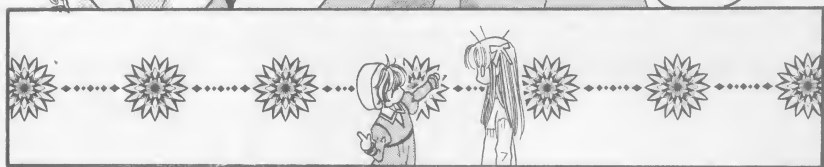
PLEASE

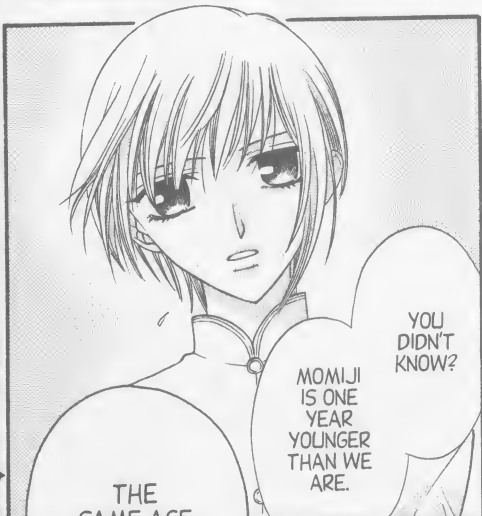
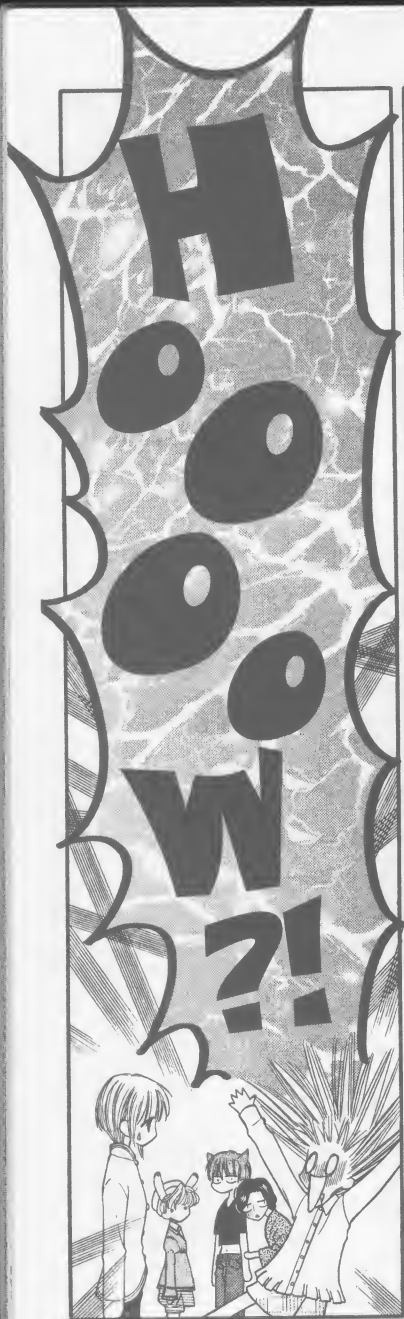
...
DON'T
HESITATE

...
TATE

I AM SO
GRATEFUL...









BE
SURPRISED
BY ALL
♪ OF IT!

I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
TO BE MOST
SURPRISED
ABOUT!!

I-
I THOUGHT
FOR SURE
HE WAS IN
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL!

HE'LL BE
COMING TO
OUR HIGH
SCHOOL
IN THE
SPRING?!

WITH
HATSUCHARU-
SAN?!

AT ANY
RATE, IT
LOOKS LIKE
LIFE IN HIGH
SCHOOL
NEXT YEAR...



JUST MAKE
SURE YOU
DON'T GET
ARRESTED,
OKAY...?

I can't
wait for
her to
call me
Master
wearing
this.

...WILL
BE VERY
LIVELY.

WHAT DID
YOU THINK
OF MY
RETURN
GIFT?

I'm waiting
for everyone
to come back.

To be continued in Volume 4...



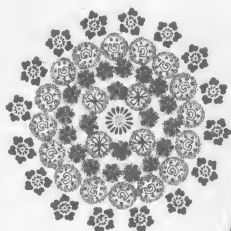
If you
whistle
at night,
burglars
will come.

Omake Theater, Part 3

Thank you
so much!

DAMMIT!

Harada-sama, Araki-sama,
my mother, my editor--
and everyone who reads
this and supports me!



Thank you for
the birthday
presents!

Next time is
Gure-san!
This has been
Natsuki Takaya!



Next time in...



You Can't Choose Your Family...

When the infamous Akito makes an in-class appearance at the start of the school year, the Sohma family worries that his arrival will be an uncensored exercise of show-and-tell about Yuki's past. Meanwhile, when Ayame vows to rekindle his brother's lost friendship, he begins to realize that you can choose your friends but you can't choose your family—especially when they're acting like animals!

Fruits Basket Volume 4
Available August 2004

Interview with Takaya-sensei

1) First, please tell us about yourself.

- Birthday: July 7
- Horoscope: Cancer
- Blood type: A
- Place of birth: Born in Shizuoka, raised in Tokyo
- Motto: I have about three, but... They're secret.
- Hobbies: Video Games
- Favorite color-Light colors, especially green and blue. Lately I've been into pastels.
- Favorite food: Abalone (because I rarely get to eat it). I love gum! I eat it so much they call me a gum monster. I don't like green peppers.

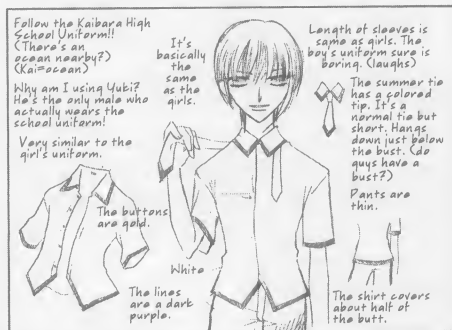
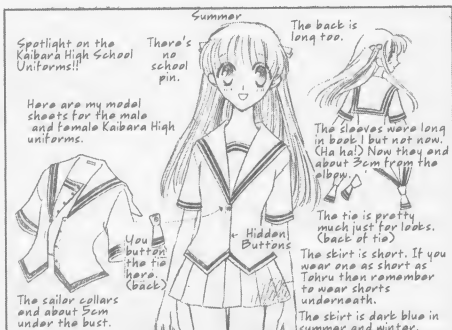


SPORTS FURUBA

What if Fruits Basket was a sports manga? That was the idea behind these sketches. Yuki's dancing rose petals are amazing but what about Kyo being

the son of a green grocer? Minagawa Motoko's family also runs a produce store... Why am I so obsessed with them?

SPOTLIGHT ON THE KAIBARA HIGH SCHOOL UNIFORMS!!



2) Tell us about your work schedule.

I don't write out a full script... Well, I'm just not able to do it well, so I go straight from my notes (which only I can decipher) to the rough draft. It's much easier to get the rough draft done right off the bat, but the downside is, I have to correct it over and over... but that's still easier for me. It seems I'm the "draw it first then decide if it's good or not" type.

So getting back to the question... it takes me about 3-5 days for the rough draft. Then I show it to my editor and discuss it, correct problems, and when I get the OK I start the real drawings. The sketches take about 2 and a half days, then another 2 and a half days to ink it. Then the tones and the rest take another 2 days or so.

3) Tell us about your daily schedule.

I work all day long, stopping only for meals. When I have a spare moment I take a bath or play video games.

4) What tools and supplies do you use for your work?

Nothing particularly special. IC paper, various brands of tone, Zebra no Maru pens and a NC cutter. And currency ink.

5) When did you start using your Macintosh for work? What do you use it for?

Around the final chapter of Genei Musou. I used it mainly for the color art. I've always been bad at coloring since I was a child. My mother once told me, "I'm not going to buy you any more coloring books!" That's how bad I was. Coloring with the Mac is so helpful. Plus it's so fun to use! Although I still can't do anything complicated with it.

6) When you're working on the plot or rough draft, do you ever get writer's block? How do you cope with that?

Yes, that does happen... My biggest problem is working out how to fit the story into the allotted pages. When I'm stuck I take a break. Sometimes I'll talk it over with my editor, other times I play a video game and get my head away from the problem. That usually helps.

7) When did you decide you wanted to be a manga-ka? What made you decide to pursue that career?

Around first grade, I think. At that time my sister wanted to become a manga-ka too, and that influenced me. I don't know... I just really wanted to become one for some reason.

8) What kind of work was your first manga?

It was a Sci-Fi comedy with a female duo... I think. I was in grade school so I don't remember too well.

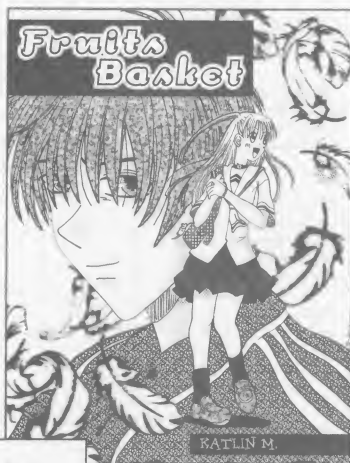
See more Questions with Takaya-sensei in volume 4!

Fans Basket



Thao-Linh N.
Blaine, MN

Oh look! There really is a place
for an onigiri in a fruits basket!



Katlin M.
Lisle, IL

Beautiful picture, Katlin. I like
the way you use depth of field
with the feathers. Kyo is H-O-T!



Even though my mother died
I was never alone
The ancestors of the Zodiac
were my family and home
They gave me so much
Needed so little in return
The least I could do
is give my gratitude to them
Yuki and Kyo
may always fight
but each of them
is truly nice
Shigure is welcoming
warm and kind
he may be a perv
but he's still nice
I guess that sometimes
a truly bad thing
can change in front
of your very eyes
from something horrible
to something nice
all just in
the blink of an eye

A poem and a picture! Thanks a bunch, Sophia!

Sophia X.
Buffalo Grove, IL

